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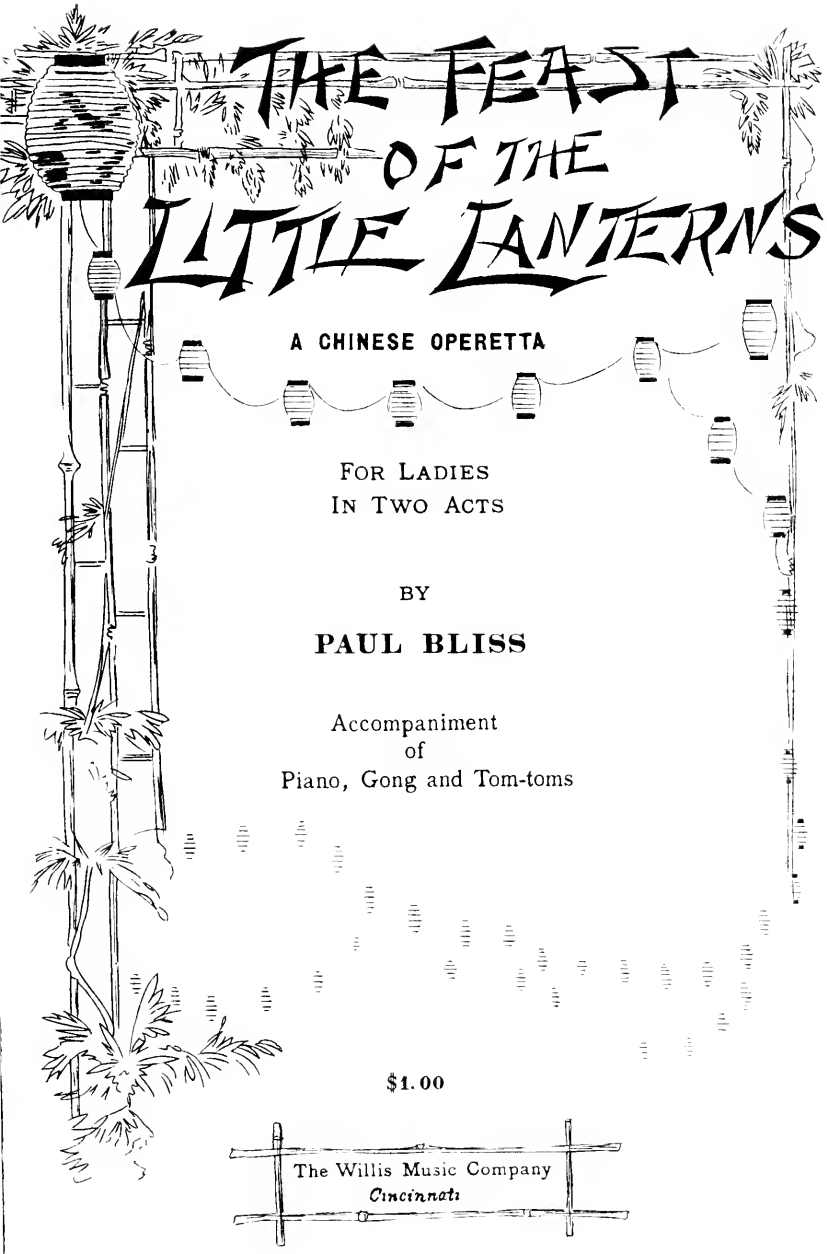


THE FEAST OF THE LITTLE LANTERNS

A CHINESE OPERETTA

FOR LADIES
IN TWO ACTS

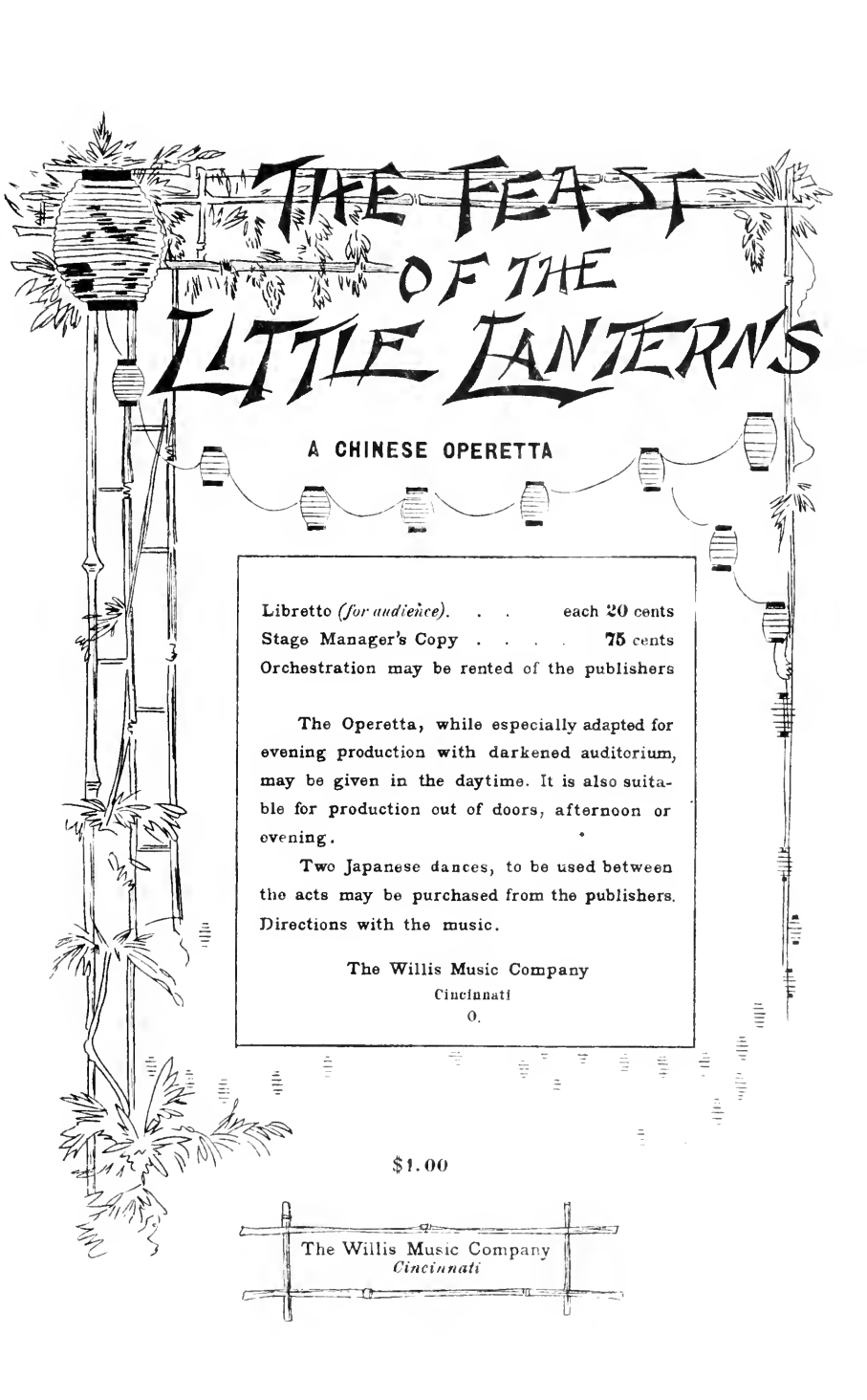
BY

PAUL BLISS

Accompaniment
of
Piano, Gong and Tom-toms

$1.00

The Willis Music Company
Cincinnati



THE FEAST OF THE LITTLE LANTERNS

A CHINESE OPERETTA

Libretto *(for audience)*. . . each **20** cents
Stage Manager's Copy . . . . **75** cents
Orchestration may be rented of the publishers

The Operetta, while especially adapted for evening production with darkened auditorium, may be given in the daytime. It is also suitable for production out of doors, afternoon or evening.

Two Japanese dances, to be used between the acts may be purchased from the publishers. Directions with the music.

The Willis Music Company
Cincinnati
O.

$1.00

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Cincinnati

CHARACTERS

PRINCESS CHAN—Soprano ..... A Chinese Heiress
MAI KU—Soprano ..... A Japanese Juggler Maid
WEE LING—Mezzo Soprano ..... Maid to the Princess
OW LONG—Mezzo Soprano ..... Governess to the Princess

Chorus of Chinese Girls, all members of the Household.

Scene

A garden profusely hung with little lanterns; at the back, a fence with a gate in the center. The color scheme might be heightened by the use of green vines and dark blue flowers (wistaria) with many poppy blooms, also the iris or fleur-de-lis.

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ARGUMENT

THE ancestral estate of Prince Chan is held in trust until the night of the Feast of the Little Lanterns, when it shall be given over to any TWO surviving children. Princess Chan, having lost her brother and sister when they were all children at play in the mountain summer-home of the Prince, is in great sorrow at the thought of losing her home which, however, is saved for her.

The first act opens with the celebration of the Feast of the Little Lanterns, various legends being woven into the text of the songs. The Governess who would regulate affairs of children in China, and the little maid who adores her mistress, cause some amusement and entertainment. Then the surprise for the Princess is introduced in the person of the little Japanese juggler girl, who pleases them mightily until summoned to the palace. The chorus departs and the curtain falls with the sorrowing Princess alone in the garden.

In the second act the Princess is discovered still alone and lamenting. The chorus comes back with Wee Ling caught in mischief; after which the little juggler girl rushes in with the announcement that the Emperor has information that the sister of the Princess Chan is alive and near, and orders that every place be searched. In searching the garden for her, the little maid finds a locket which the juggler maid claims as her's, in which is found the half of a coin which exactly matches the one worn by the Princess. They recognize each other as sisters, and are overjoyed that the home shall continue to be theirs.

The Feast of the Little Lanterns is progressing with great gaiety as the curtain falls.

NOTICE

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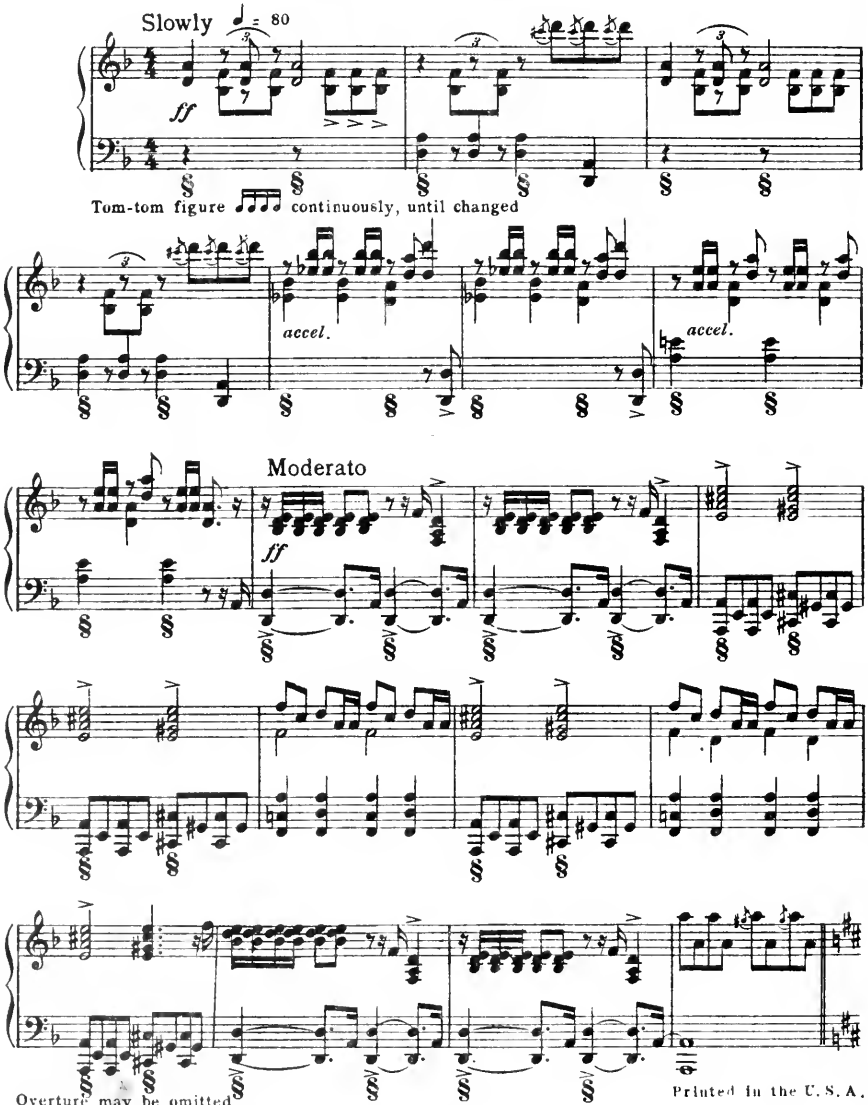
The Feast of the Little Lanterns

Chinese Operetta for Ladies

Libretto and Music by **PAUL BLISS**

№ 1. Overture



Overture may be omitted
§ At these marks "gong" should be used

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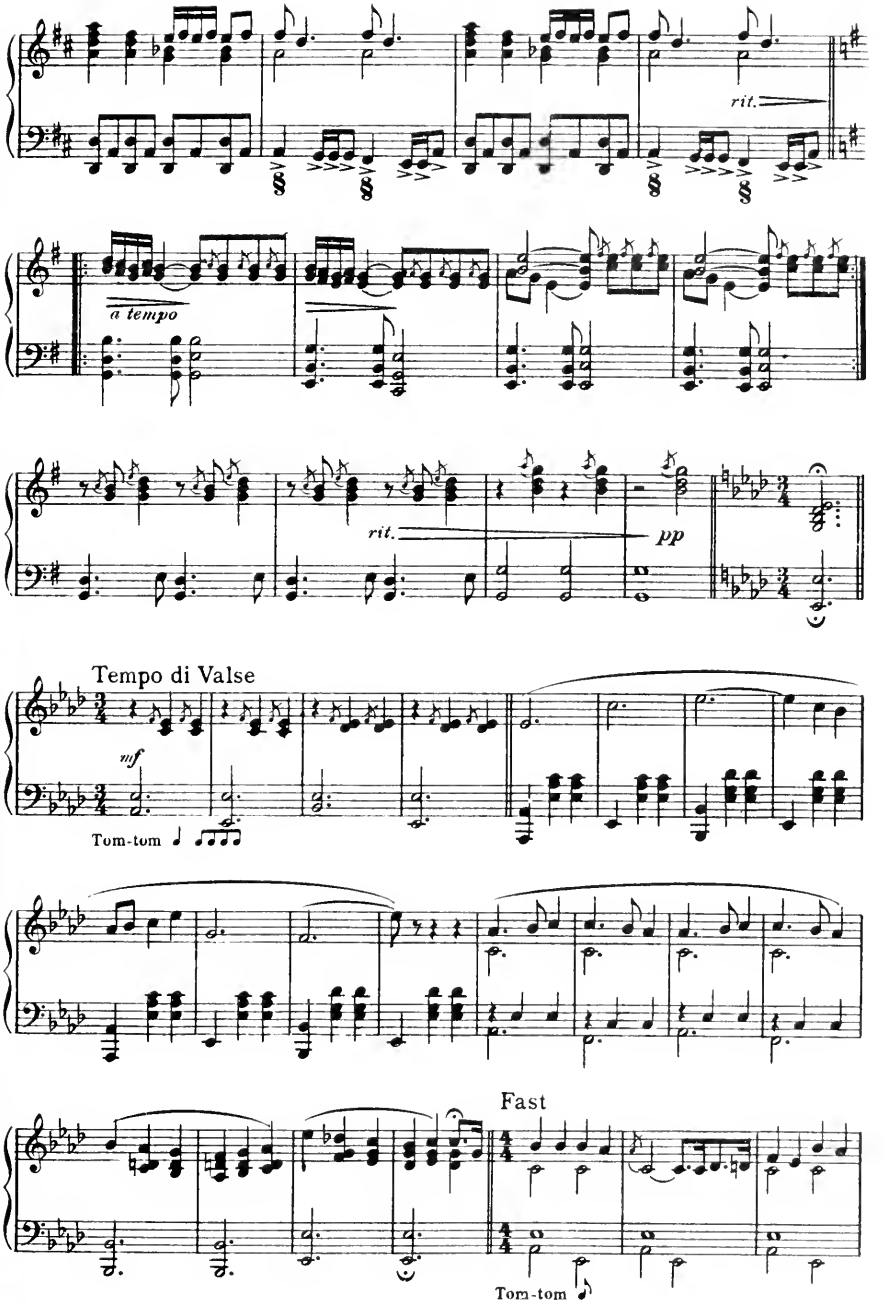
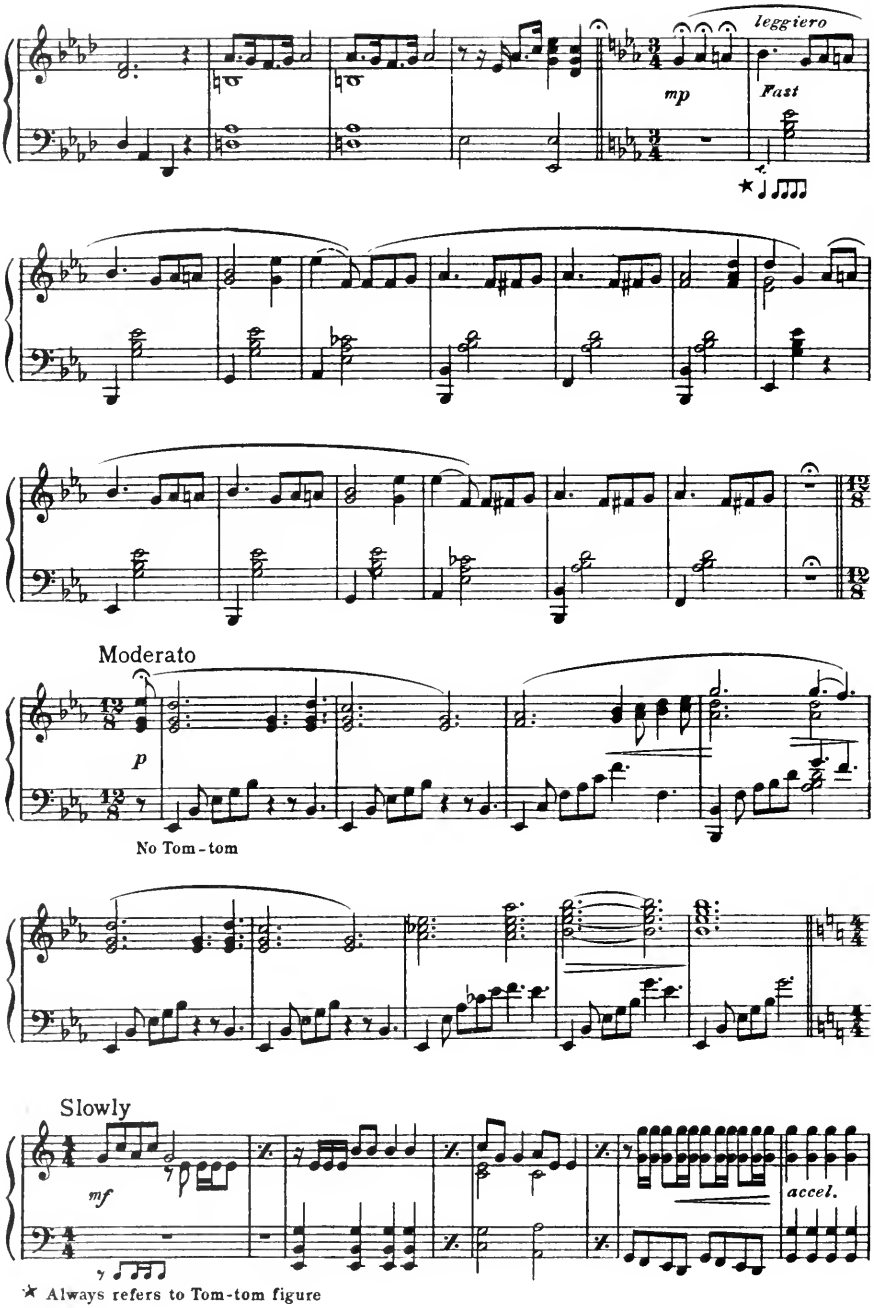
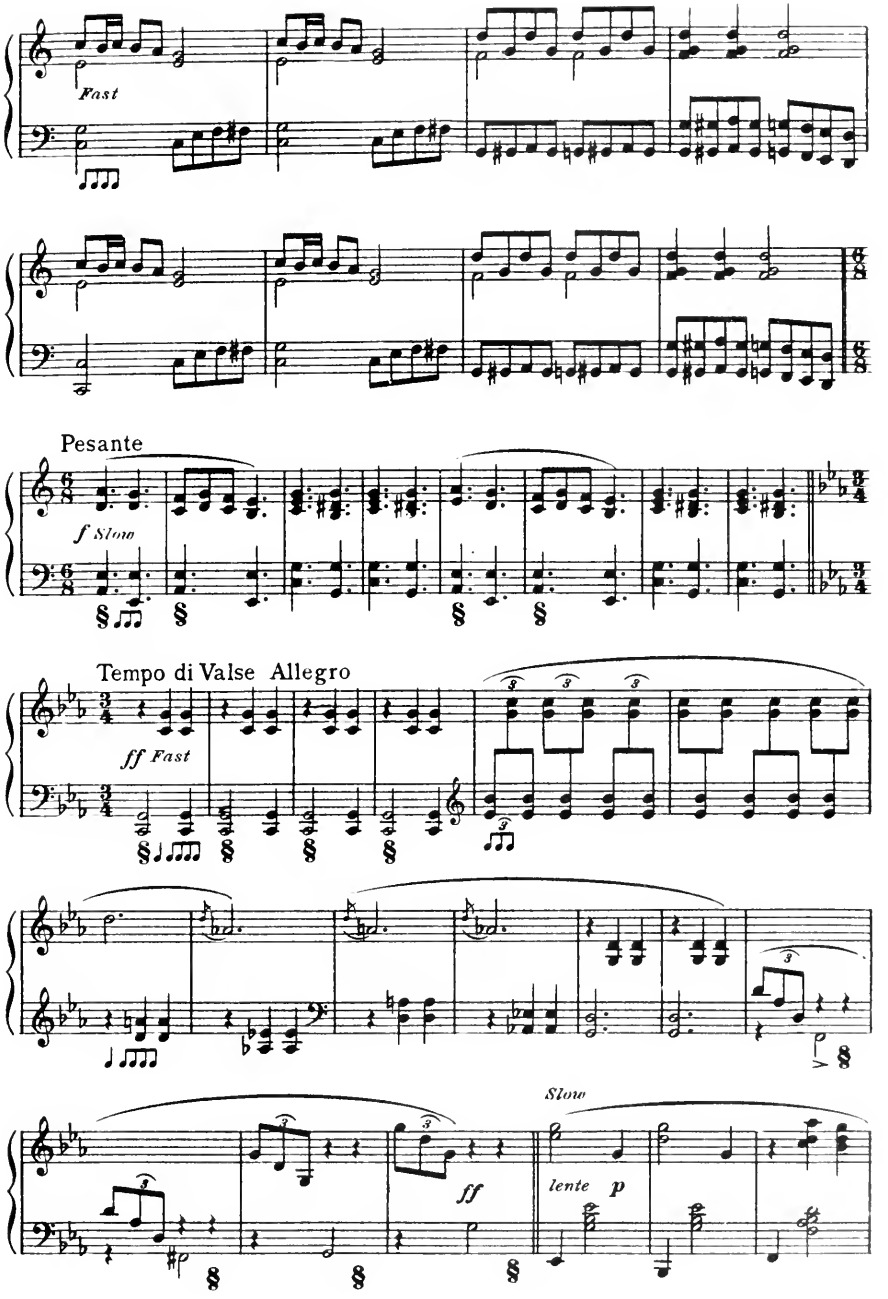
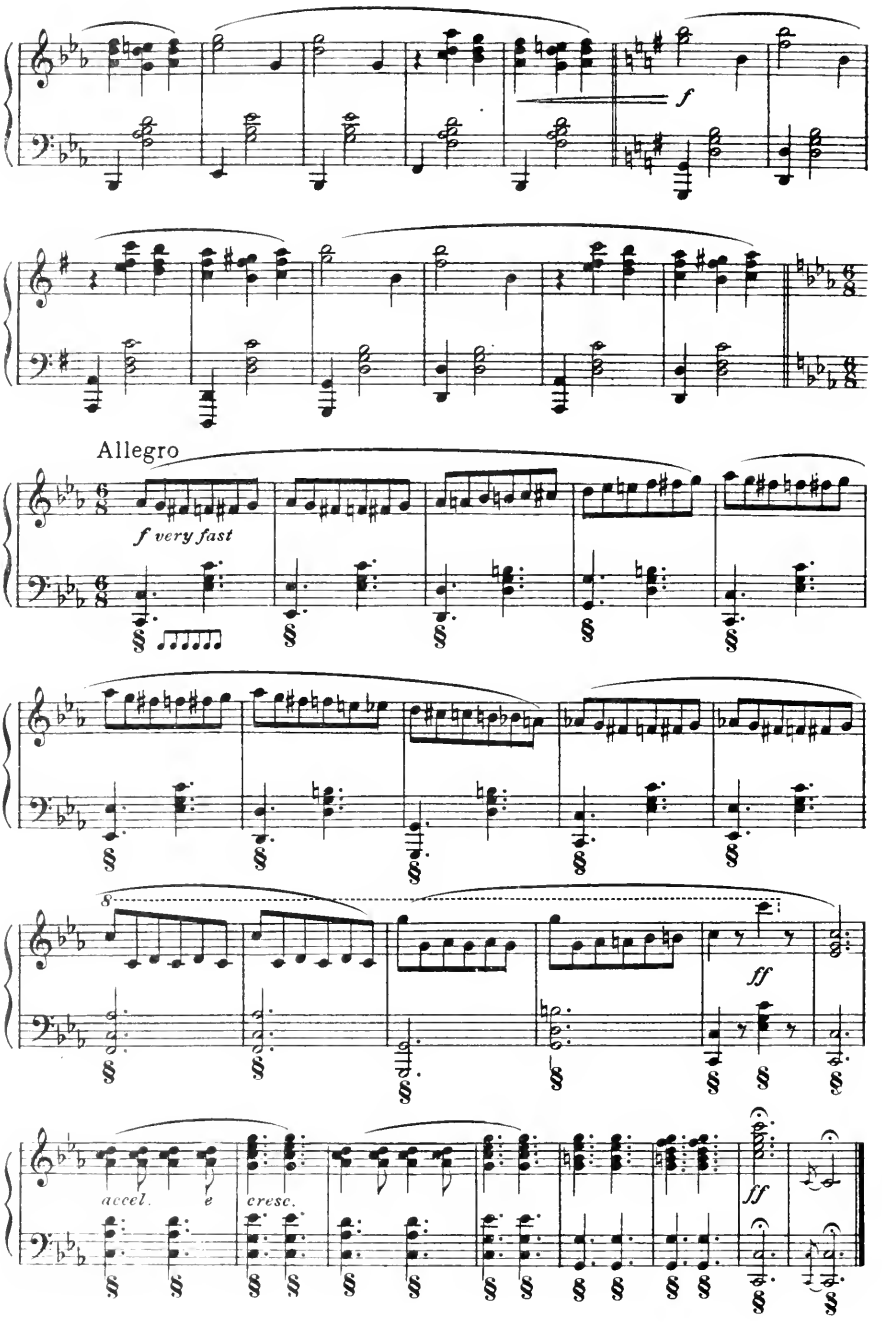

rit.
a tempo
rit.
pp
Tempo di Valse
mf
Tom-tom
Fast
Tom-tom



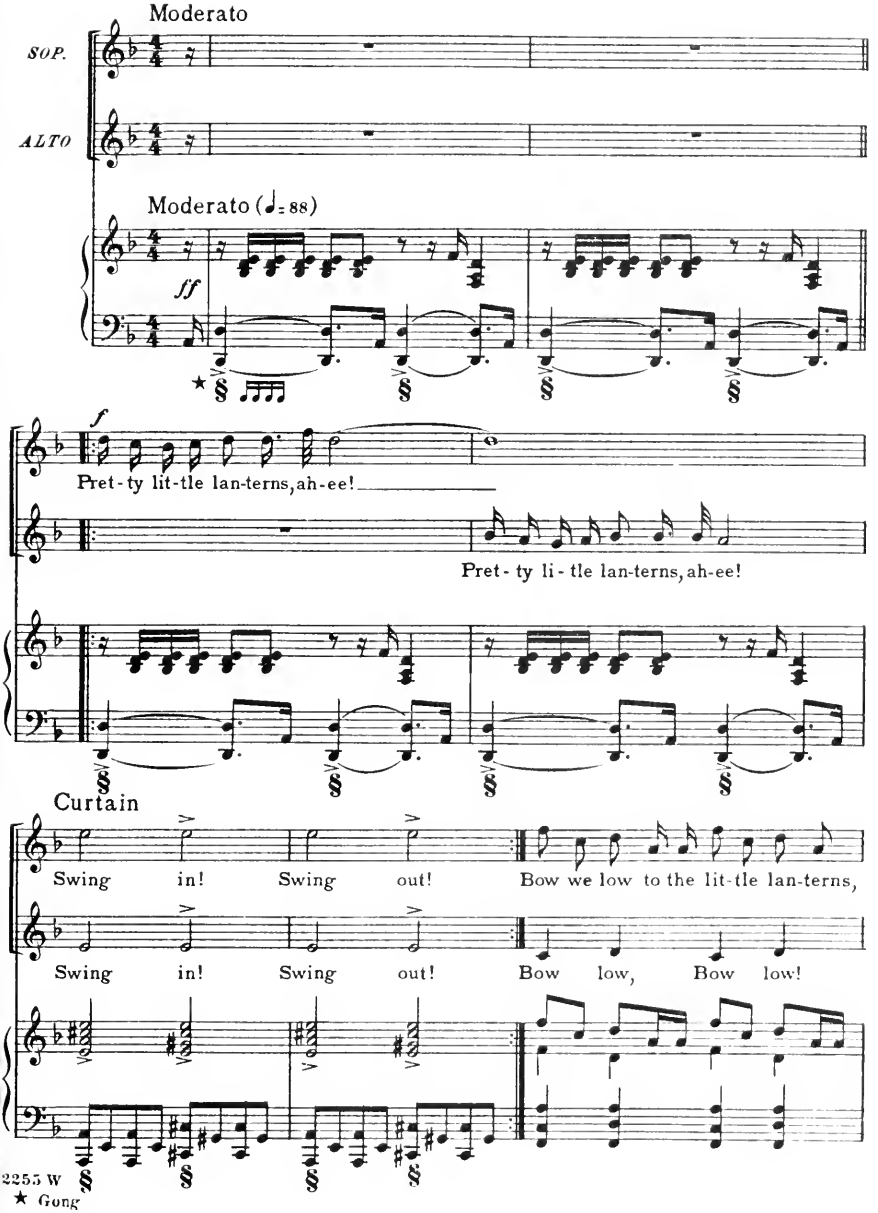
★ Always refers to Tom-tom figure

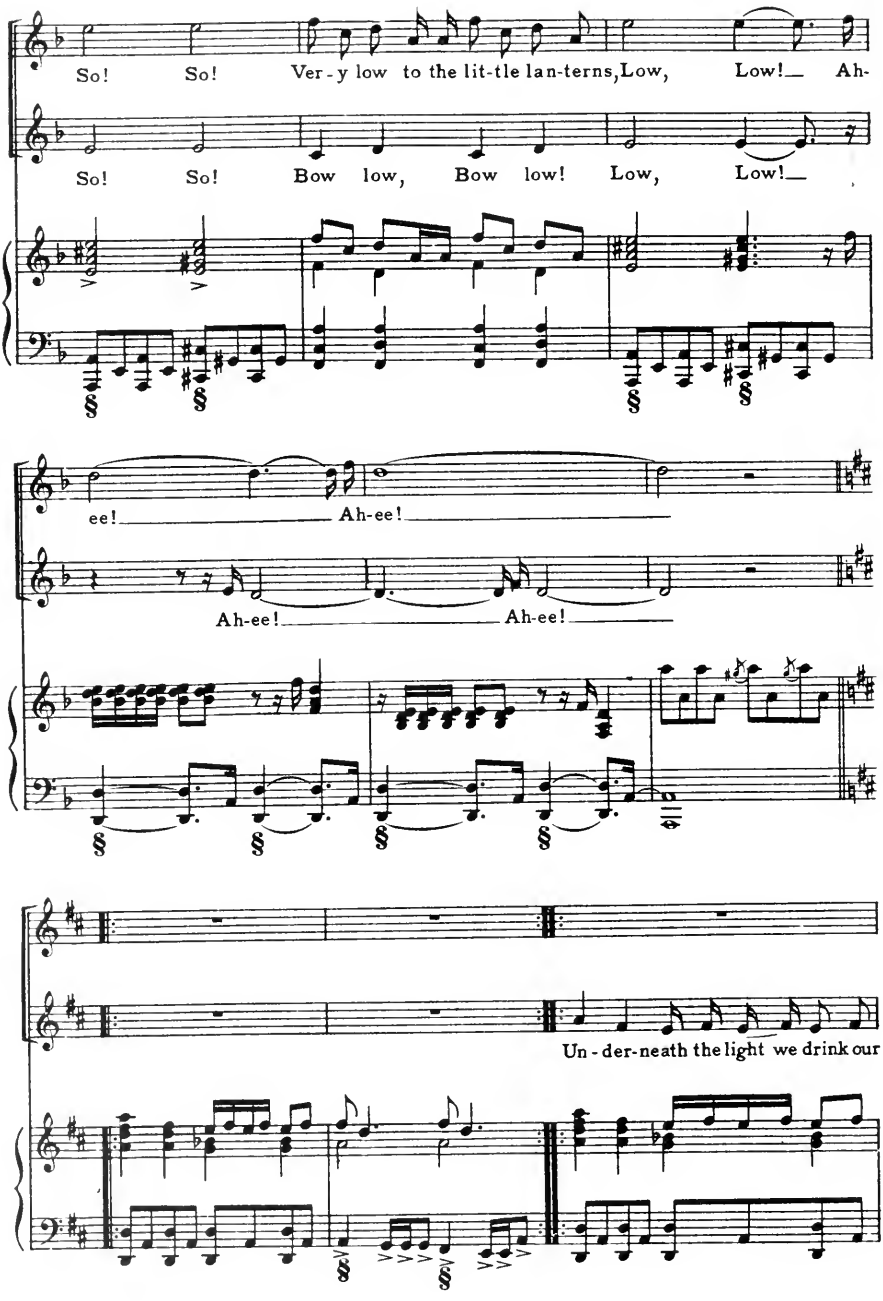

Fast
Pesante
f Slow
Tempo di Valse Allegro
ff Fast
ff
Slow
lente
p

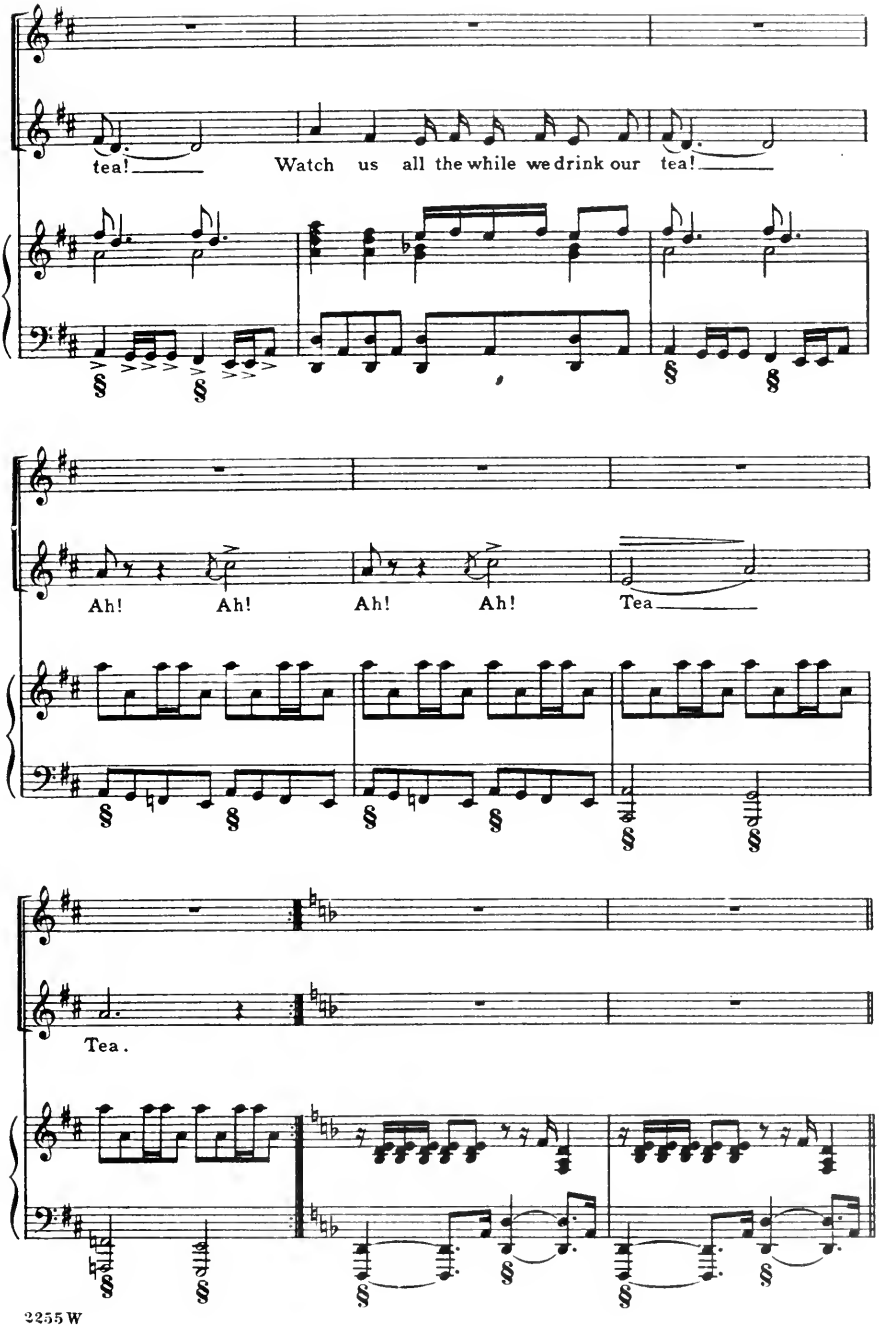

f
Allegro
f very fast
ff
accel.
e
cresc.
ff

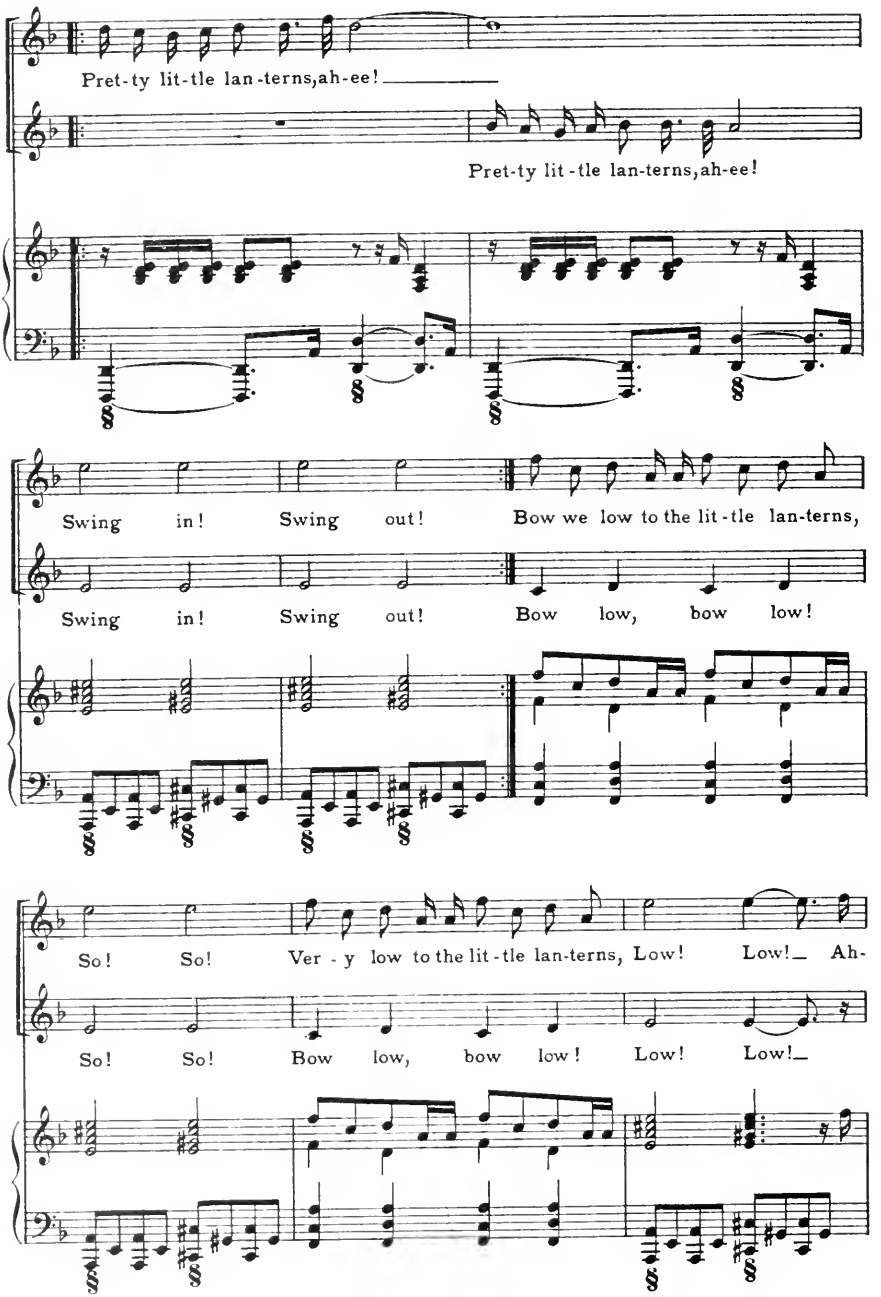
Nº 2. Chorus

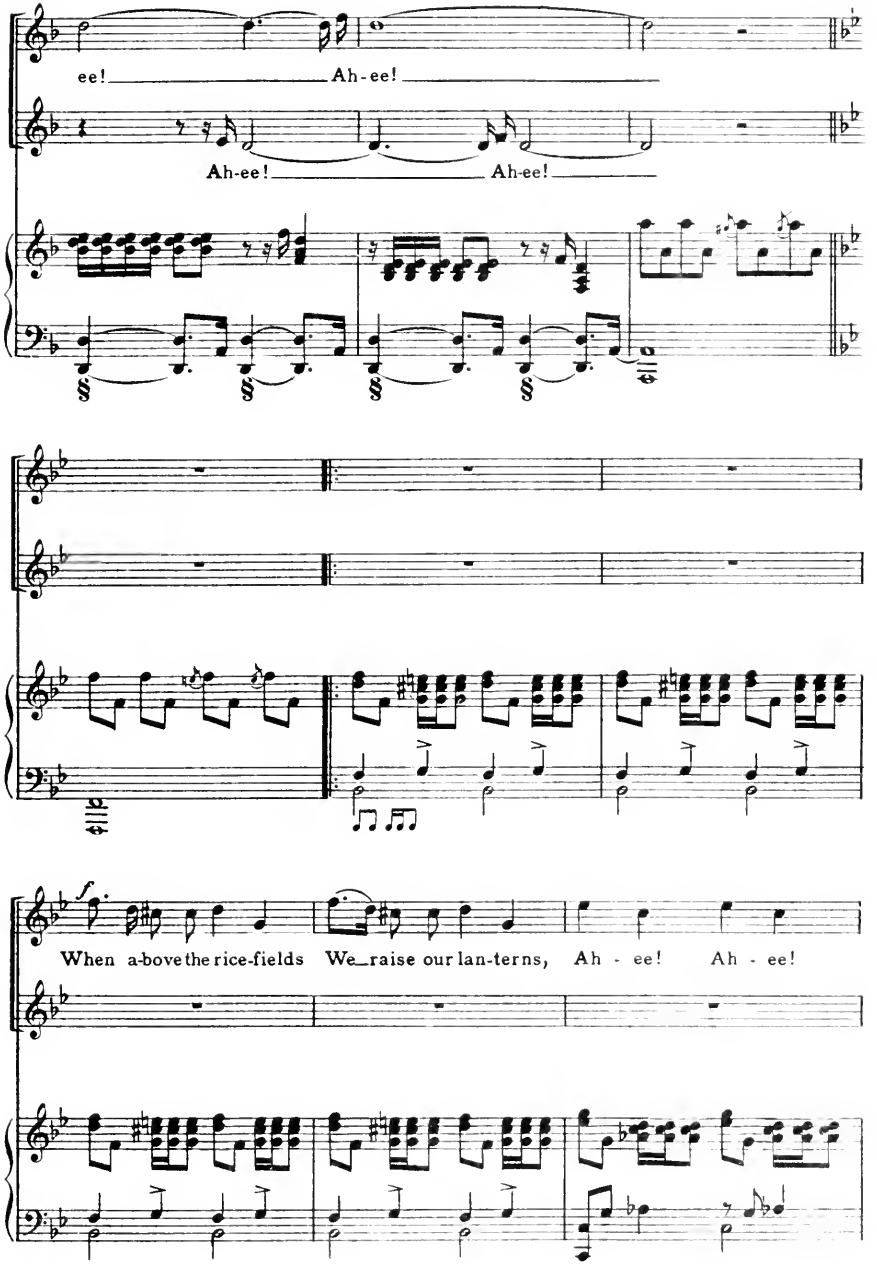
Pretty Little Lanterns

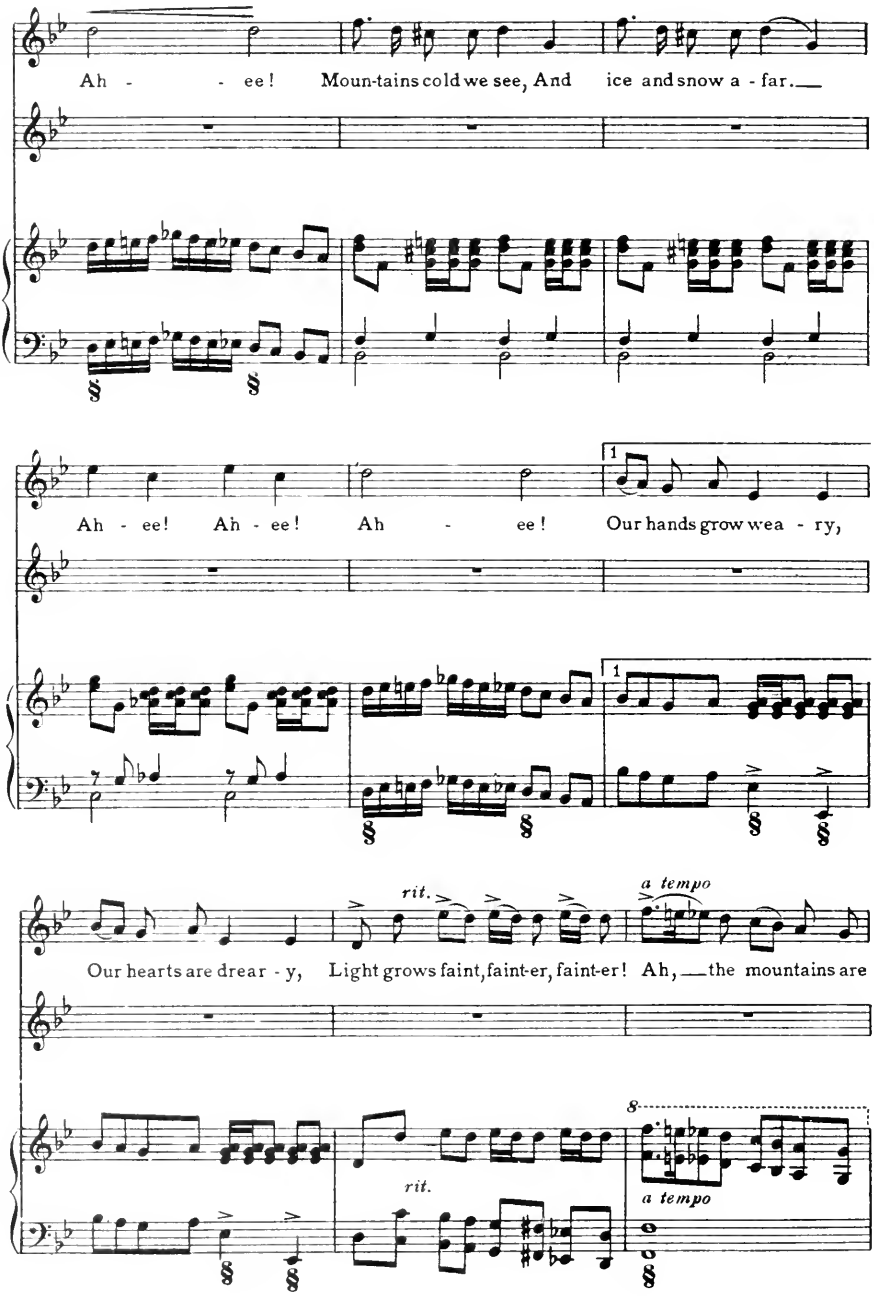


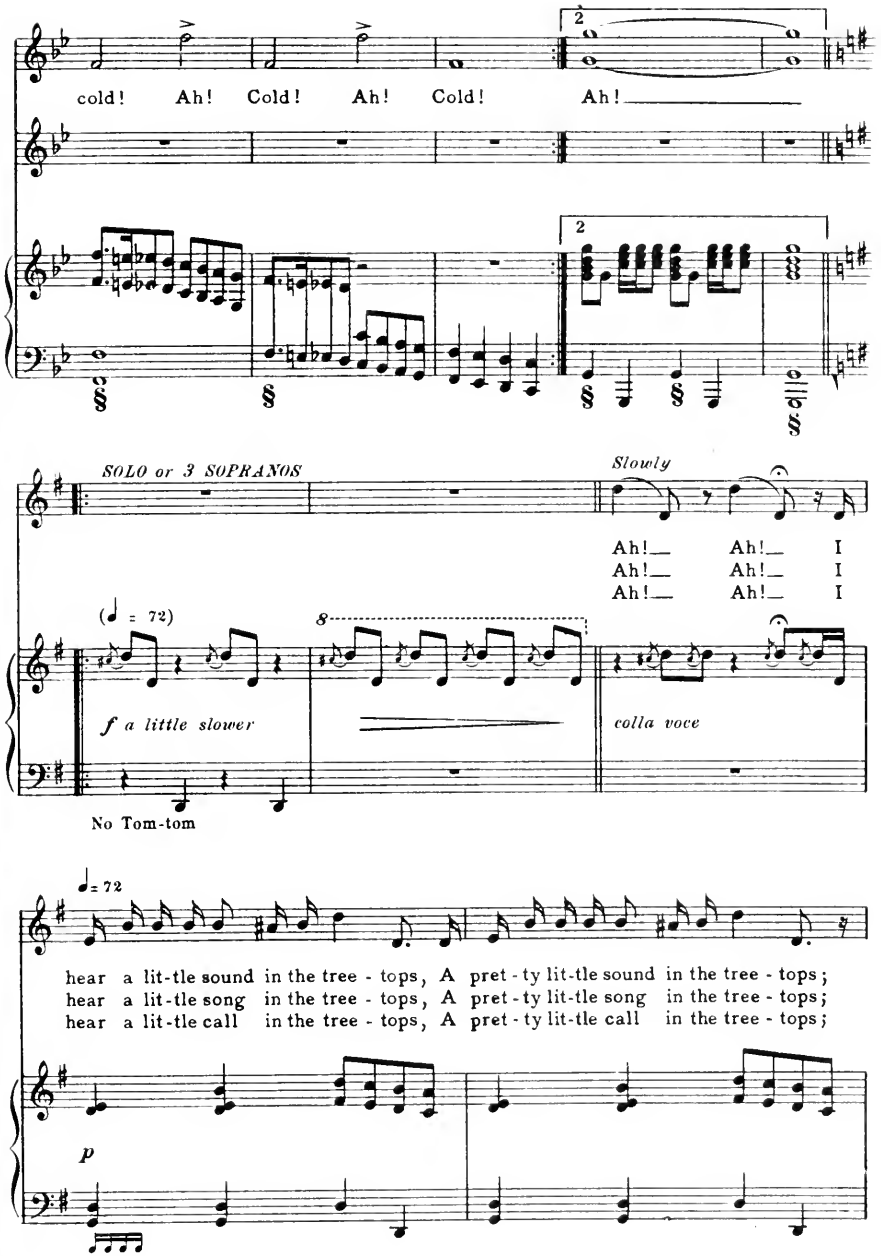

So! So! Ver-y low to the lit-tle lan-terns, Low, Low! Ah-
So! So! Bow low, Bow low! Low, Low!
ee! Ah-ee!
Ah-ee! Ah-ee!
Un-der-neath the light we drink our

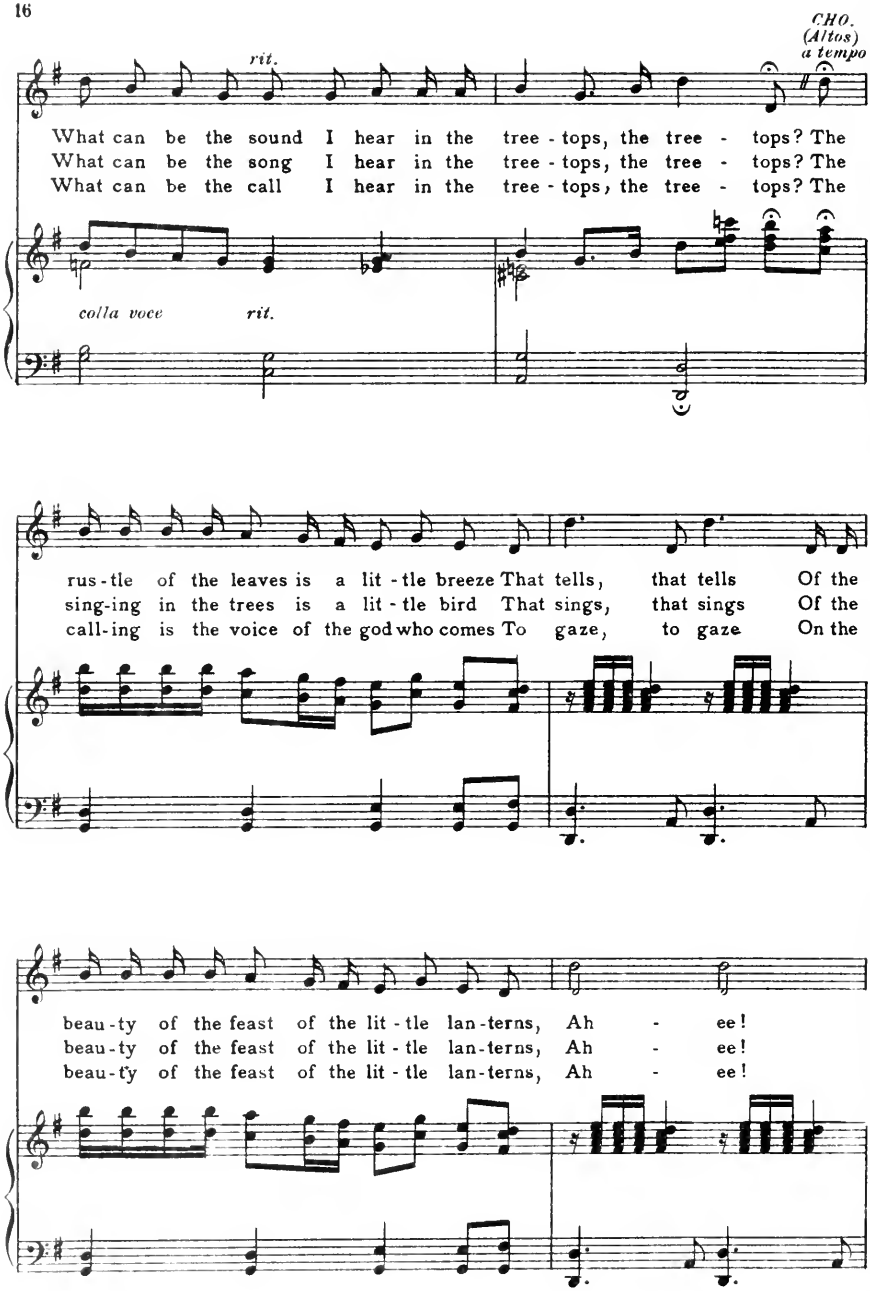

tea!
Watch us all the while we drink our tea!
Ah! Ah! Ah! Ah! Tea
Tea.

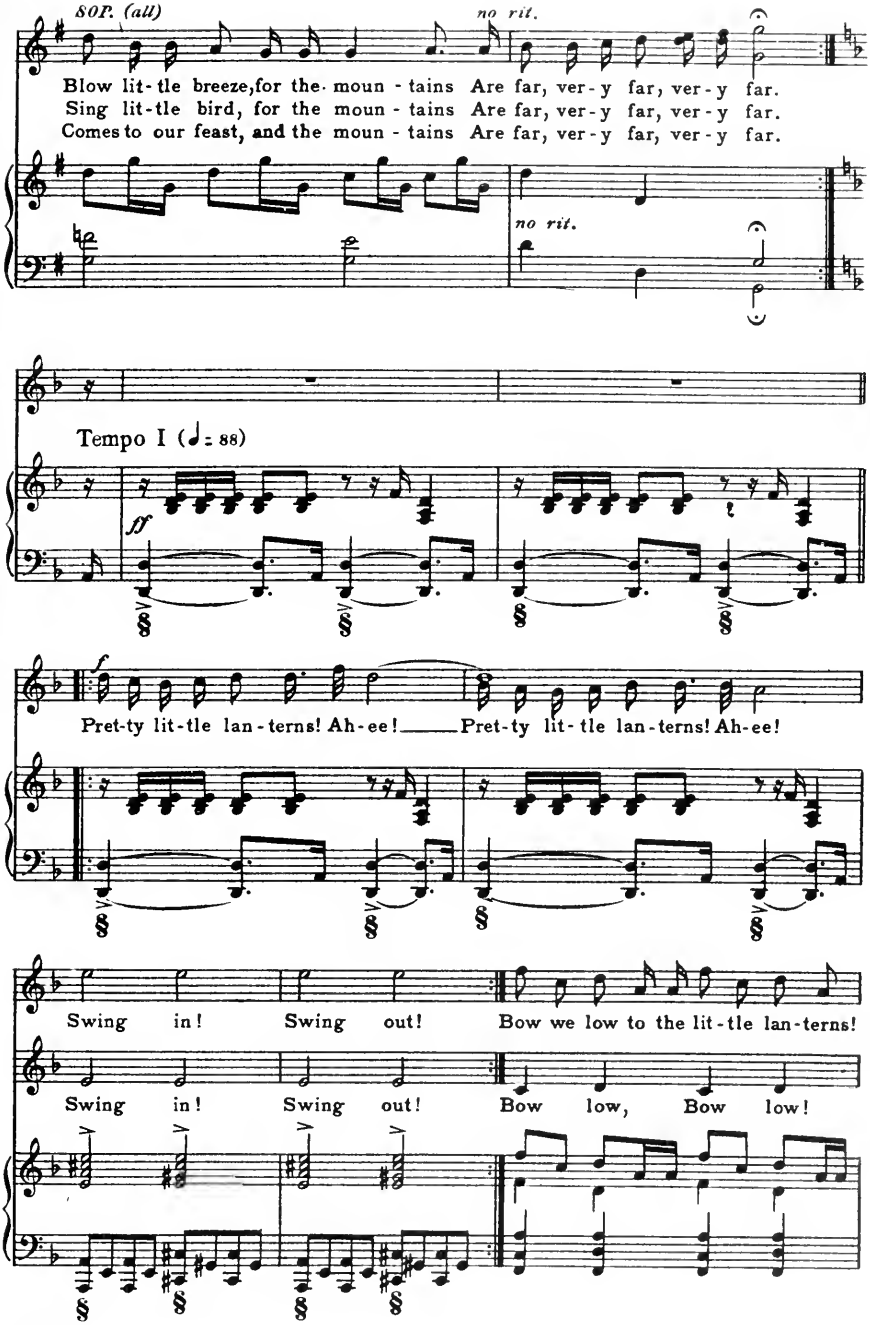

Pret-ty lit-tle lan-terns, ah-ee!
Pret-ty lit-tle lan-terns, ah-ee!
Swing in! Swing out! Bow we low to the lit-tle lan-terns,
Swing in! Swing out! Bow low, bow low!
So! So! Ver-y low to the lit-tle lan-terns, Low! Low! Ah-
So! So! Bow low, bow low! Low! Low!

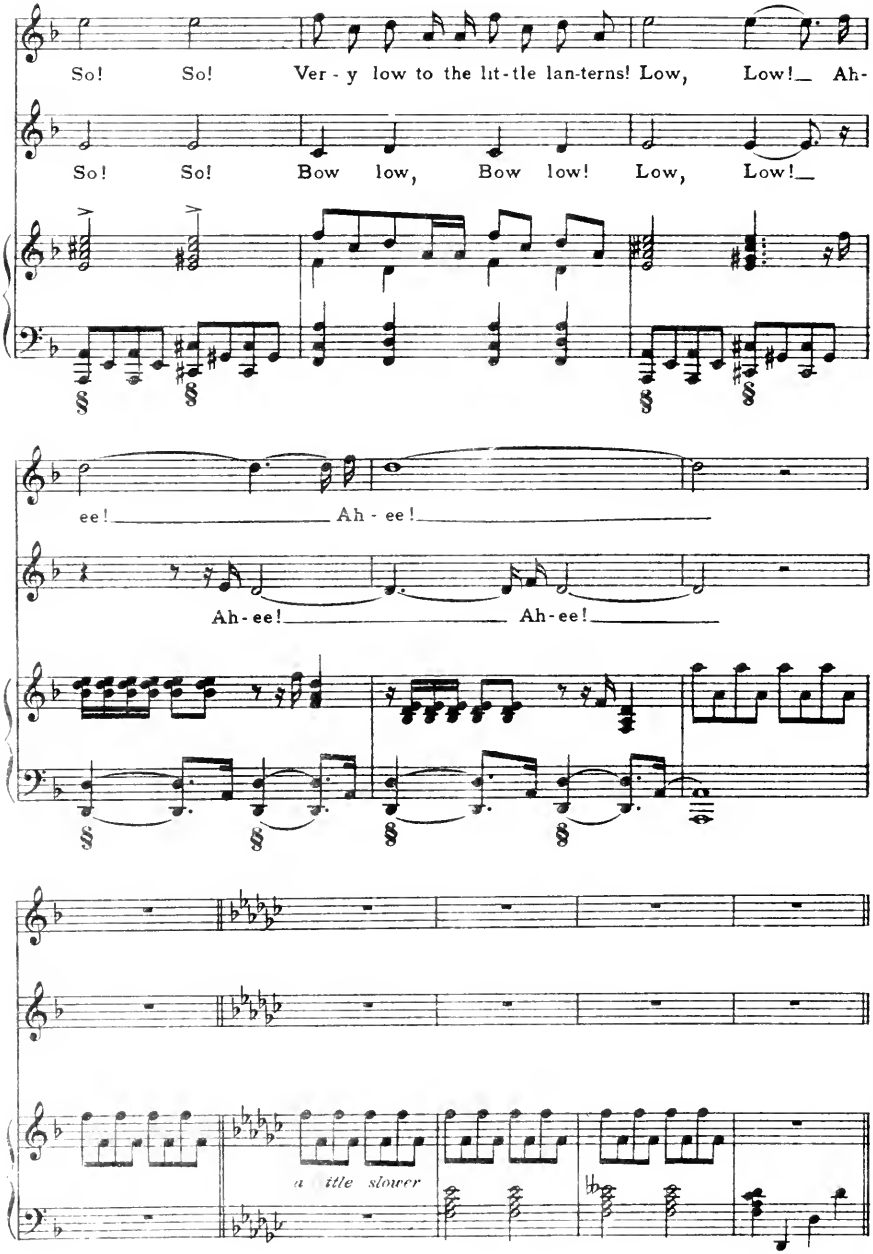

ee! Ah-ee!
Ah-ee! Ah-ee!
When a-bove the rice-fields We raise our lan-terns, Ah - ee! Ah - ee!

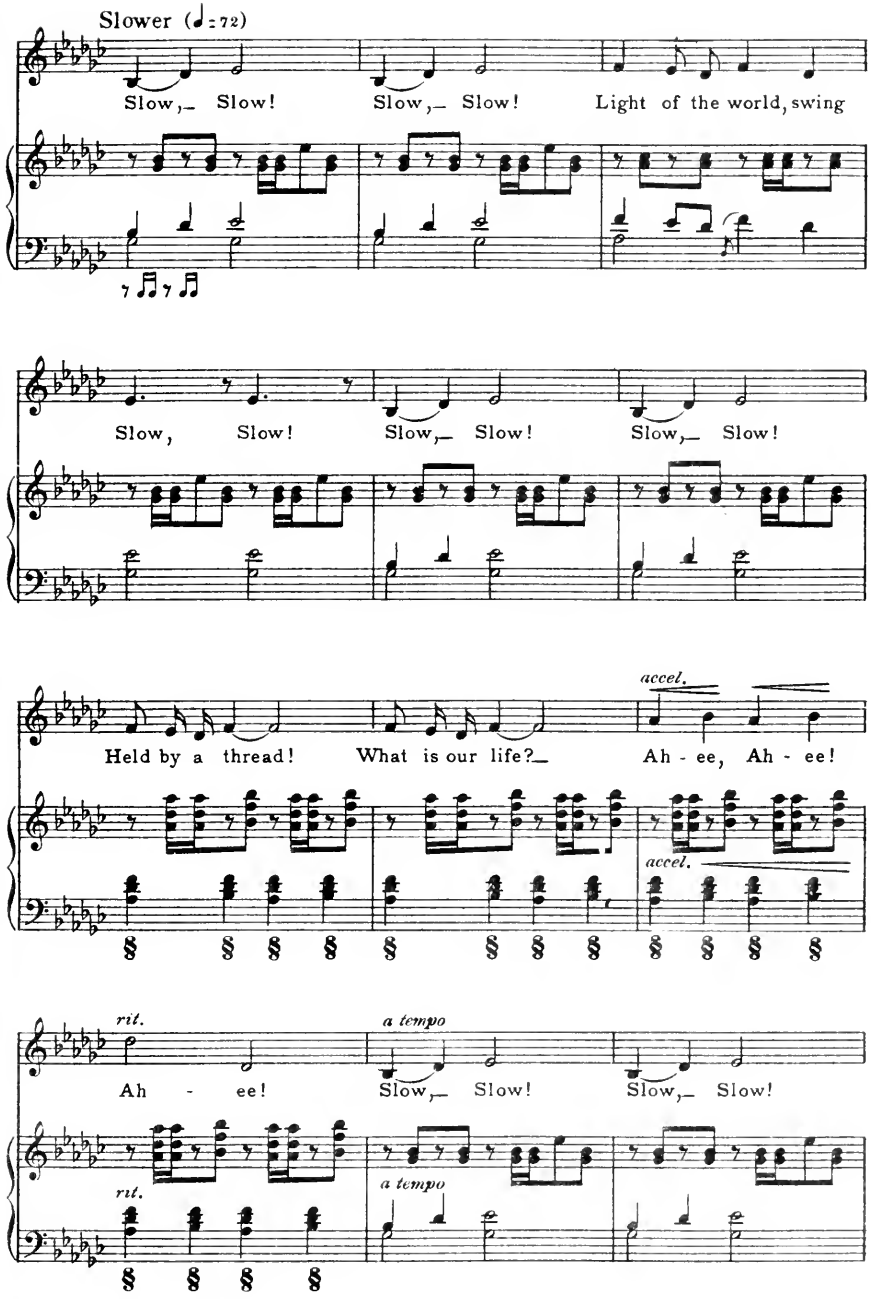

Ah - - ee! Moun-tains cold we see, And ice and snow a - far.
Ah - ee! Ah - ee! Ah - ee! Our hands grow wea - ry,
Our hearts are drear - y, Light grows faint, faint-er, faint-er! Ah, the mountains are
rit.
a tempo
rit.
a tempo

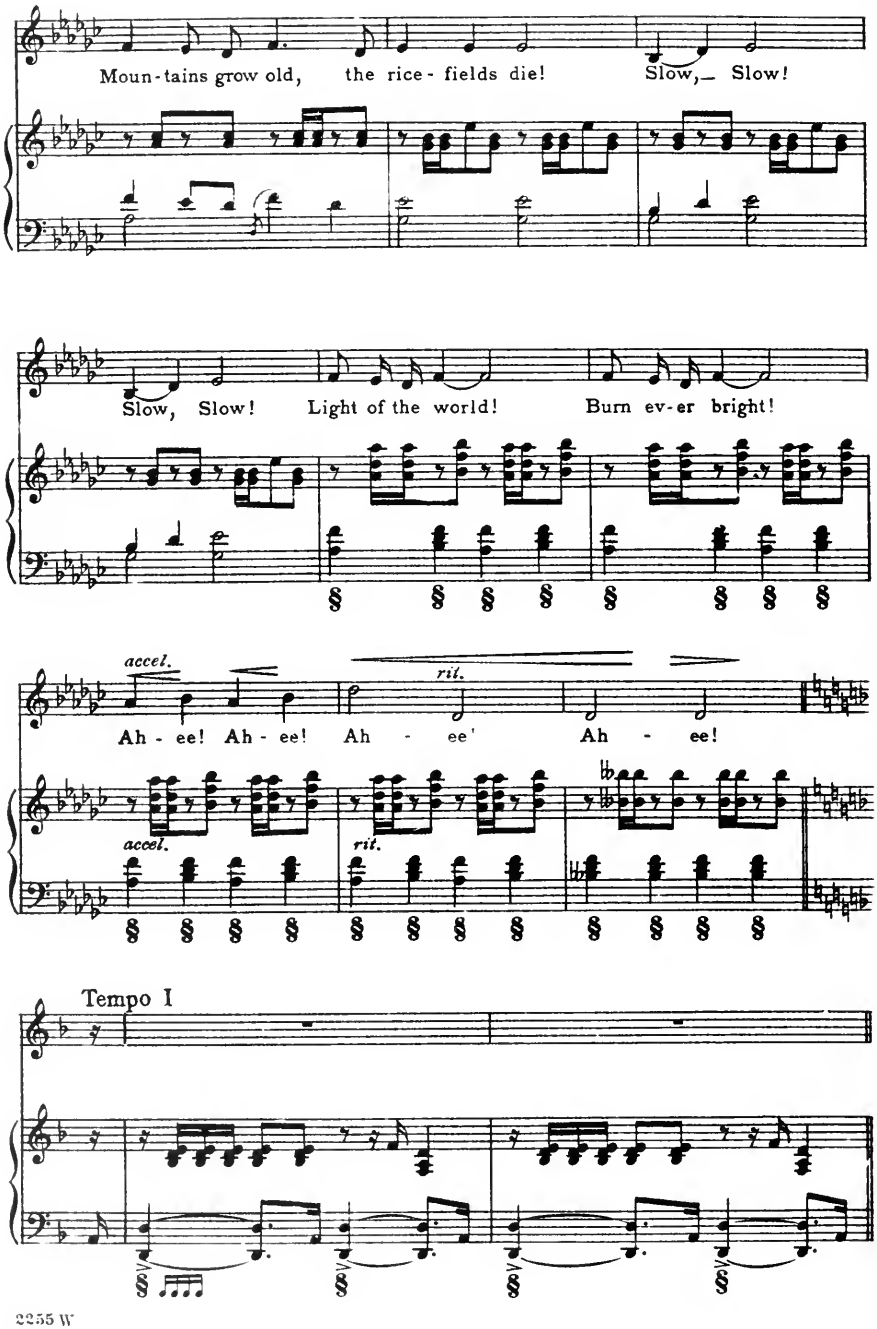

cold! Ah! Cold! Ah! Cold! Ah!
SOLO or 3 SOPRANOS
Slowly
Ah!_ Ah!_ I
Ah!_ Ah!_ I
Ah!_ Ah!_ I
(♩ = 72)
8
f a little slower
colla voce
No Tom-tom
♩= 72
hear a lit-tle sound in the tree - tops, A pret - ty lit-tle sound in the tree - tops;
hear a lit-tle song in the tree - tops, A pret - ty lit-tle song in the tree - tops;
hear a lit-tle call in the tree - tops, A pret - ty lit-tle call in the tree - tops;
p

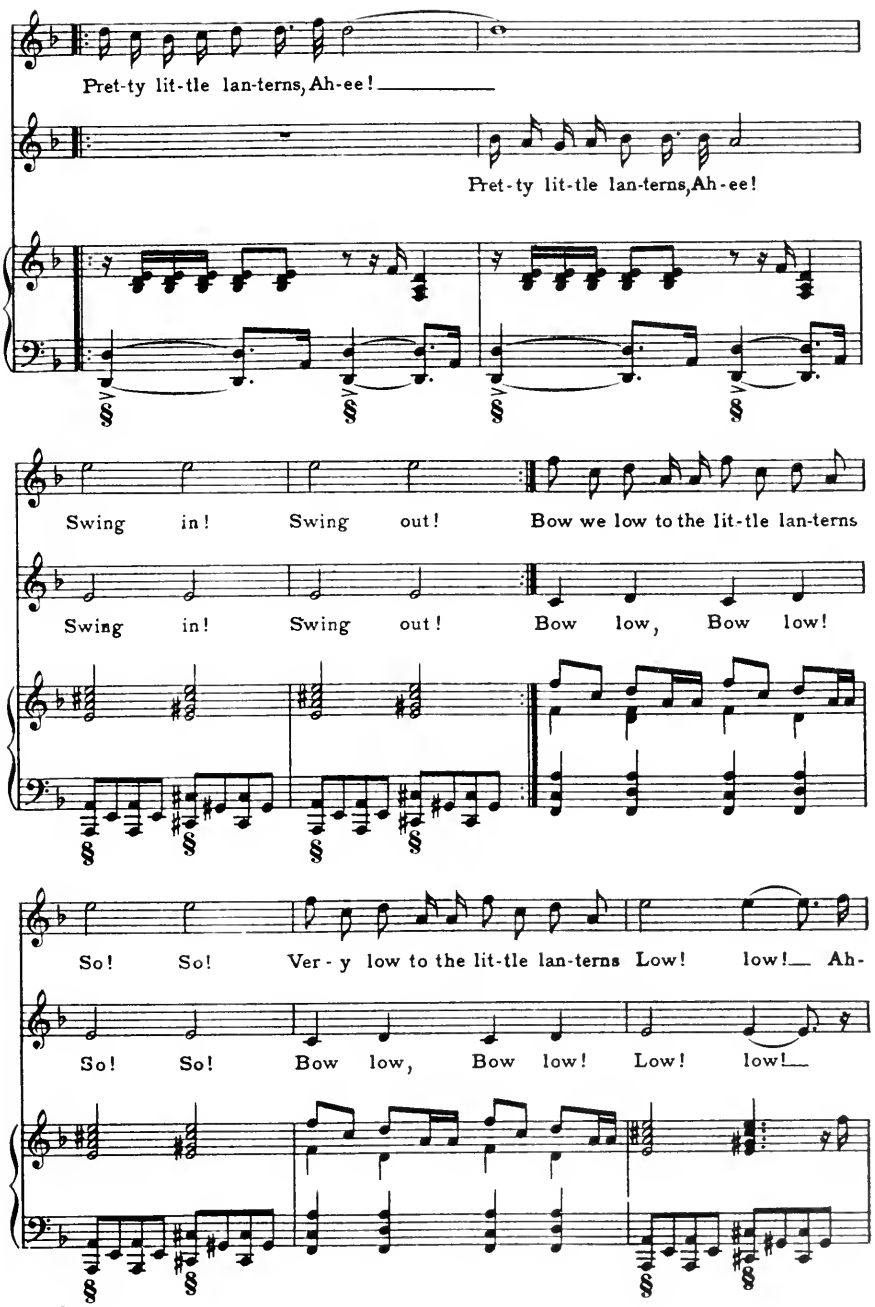

CHO. (Altos) a tempo
rit.
What can be the sound I hear in the tree - tops, the tree - tops? The
What can be the song I hear in the tree - tops, the tree - tops? The
What can be the call I hear in the tree - tops, the tree - tops? The
colla voce
rit.
rus - tle of the leaves is a lit - tle breeze That tells, that tells Of the
sing - ing in the trees is a lit - tle bird That sings, that sings Of the
call - ing is the voice of the god who comes To gaze, to gaze On the
beau - ty of the feast of the lit - tle lan - terns, Ah - ee!
beau - ty of the feast of the lit - tle lan - terns, Ah - ee!
beau - ty of the feast of the lit - tle lan - terns, Ah - ee!

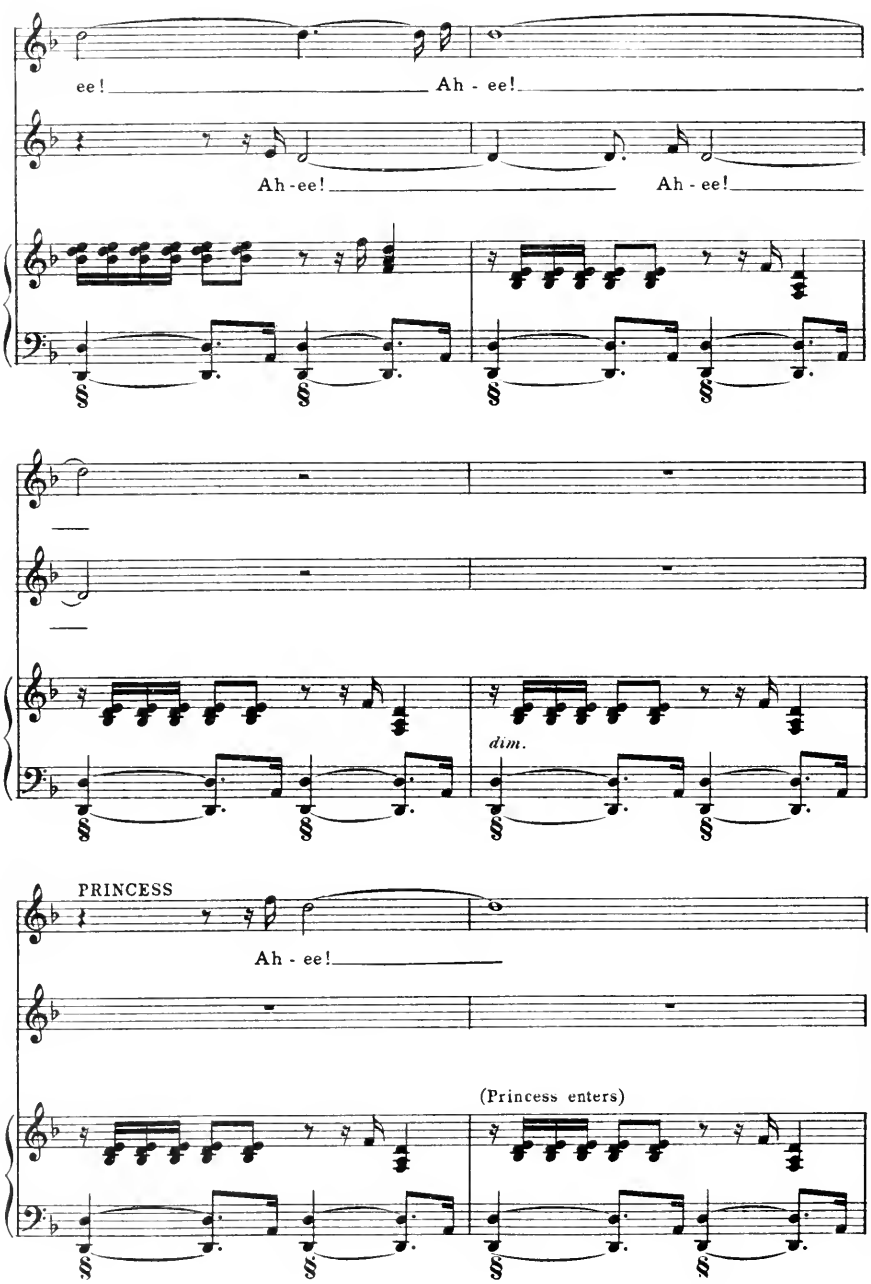

SOP. (all)
no rit.
Blow lit-tle breeze, for the moun-tains Are far, ver-y far, ver-y far.
Sing lit-tle bird, for the moun-tains Are far, ver-y far, ver-y far.
Comes to our feast, and the moun-tains Are far, ver-y far, ver-y far.
no rit.
Tempo I (♩= 88)
ff
f
Pret-ty lit-tle lan-terns! Ah-ee! Pret-ty lit-tle lan-terns! Ah-ee!
Swing in! Swing out! Bow we low to the lit-tle lan-terns!
Swing in! Swing out! Bow low, Bow low!

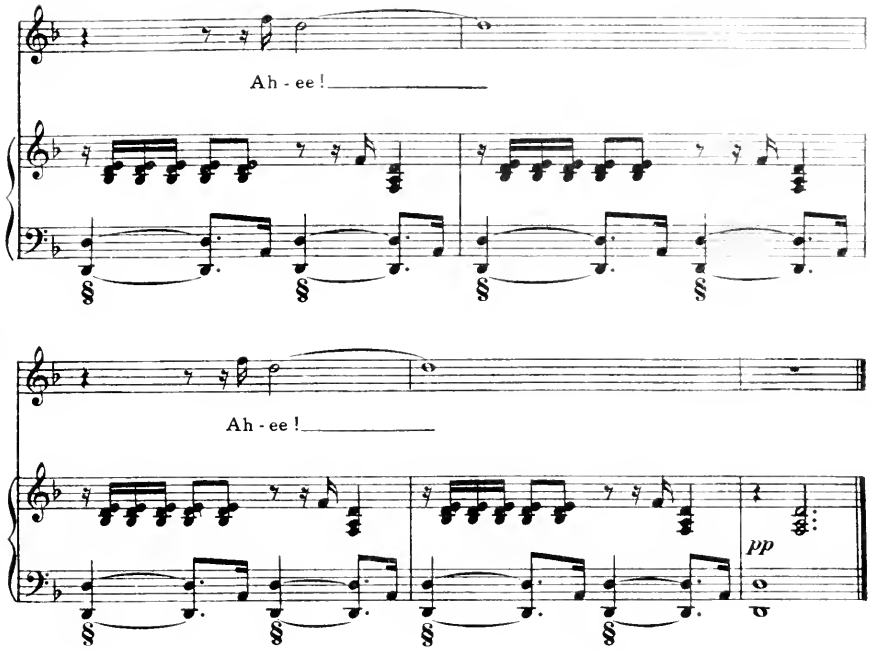

So! So! Ver - y low to the lit - tle lan-terns! Low, Low!_ Ah-
So! So! Bow low, Bow low! Low, Low!_
ee!_ Ah - ee!_
Ah-ee!_ Ah-ee!_
a little slower


Slower (♩=72)
Slow,— Slow! Slow,— Slow! Light of the world, swing
Slow, Slow! Slow,— Slow! Slow,— Slow!
accel.
Held by a thread! What is our life?— Ah - ee, Ah - ee!
accel.
rit.
Ah - ee!
a tempo
Slow,— Slow! Slow,— Slow!
rit.
a tempo


Moun-tains grow old, the rice-fields die! Slow,— Slow!
Slow, Slow! Light of the world! Burn ev-er bright!
accel.
rit.
Ah - ee! Ah - ee! Ah - ee' Ah - ee!
accel.
rit.
Tempo I


Pret-ty lit-tle lan-terns, Ah-ee!
Pret-ty lit-tle lan-terns, Ah-ee!
Swing in! Swing out! Bow we low to the lit-tle lan-terns
Swing in! Swing out! Bow low, Bow low!
So! So! Ver-y low to the lit-tle lan-terns Low! low! Ah-
So! So! Bow low, Bow low! Low! low!


ee!
Ah - ee!
Ah-ee!
Ah - ee!
dim.
PRINCESS
Ah - ee!
(Princess enters)



Wee Ling: "Why is our mistress so terribly cast down to-night at this happy time, the Feast of the Little Lanterns"?

Princess Chan: "I know that the time of the Feast of the Little Lanterns is a mos happy time for all of you, but you know it is the saddest evening in my life."

W. L. "The saddest?_ Of your life?_ Why?"

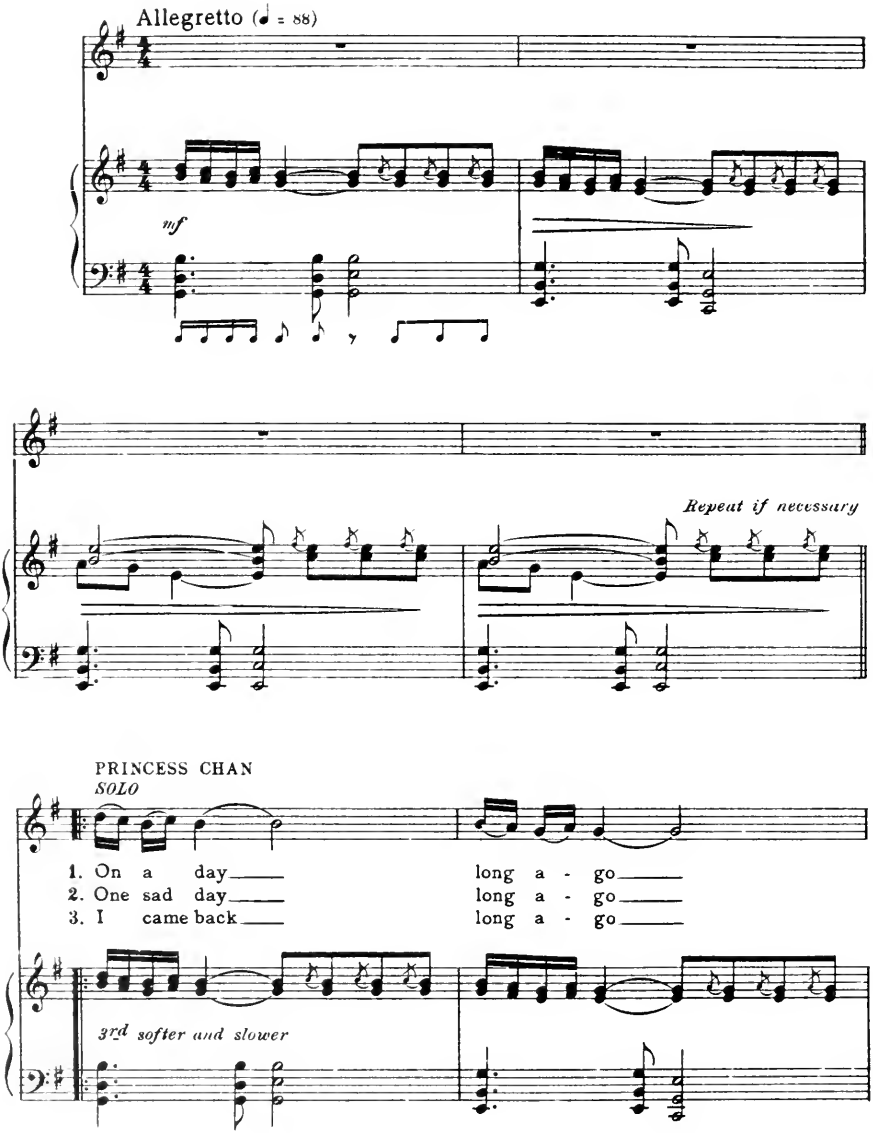
P. C. "Listen and I will read to you the edict of the Emperor. *(reads)* 'The Domair of Prince Chan (deceased), will be held in trust until the Feast of the Little Lanterns, when it shall be delivered to any *two* of his children living. No *one* child shall have any title thereto. It shall revert to the royal domain. Signed "Emperor Chi!"'

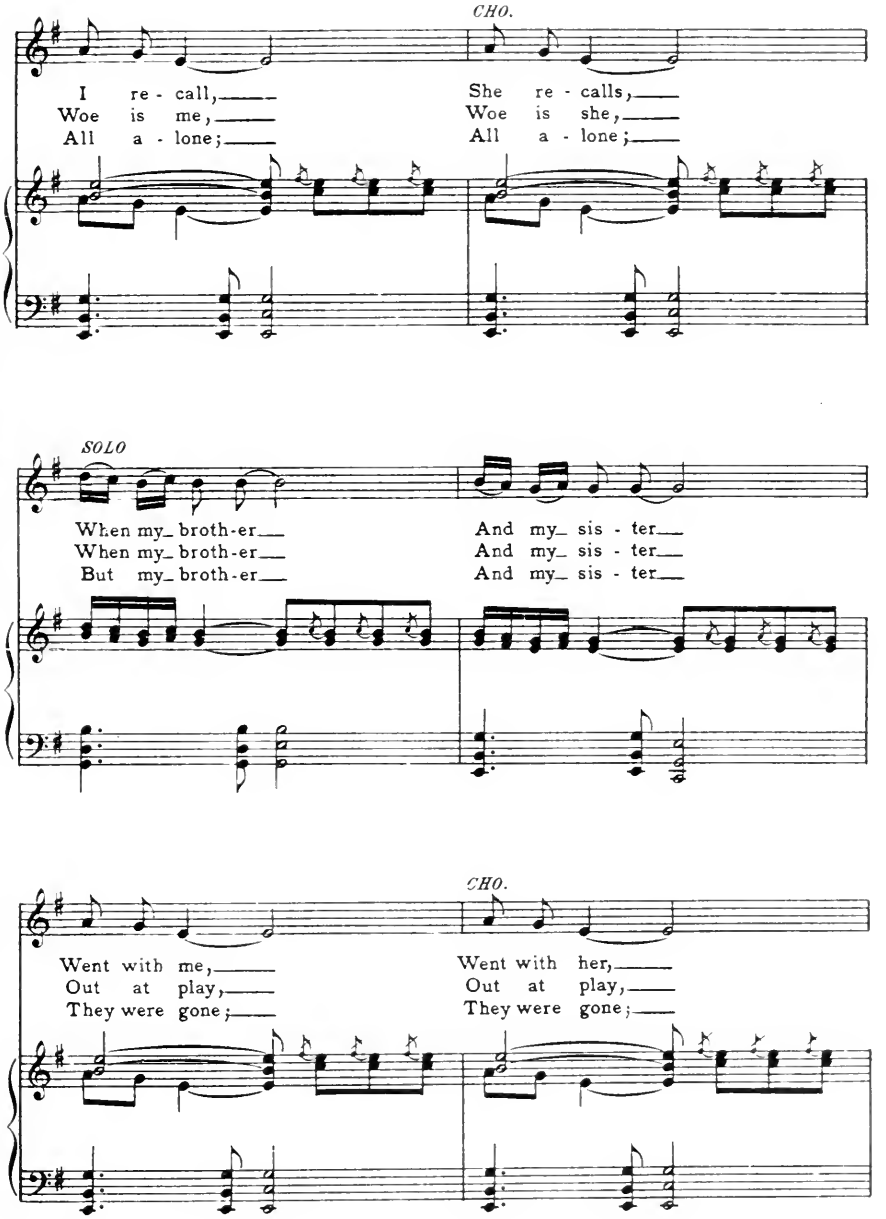
Oh, my little maids, it almost breaks my heart to think that I must lose, forever, this, my beautiful home. I know I had a sister and a brother, but alas, I do not know where they are now."

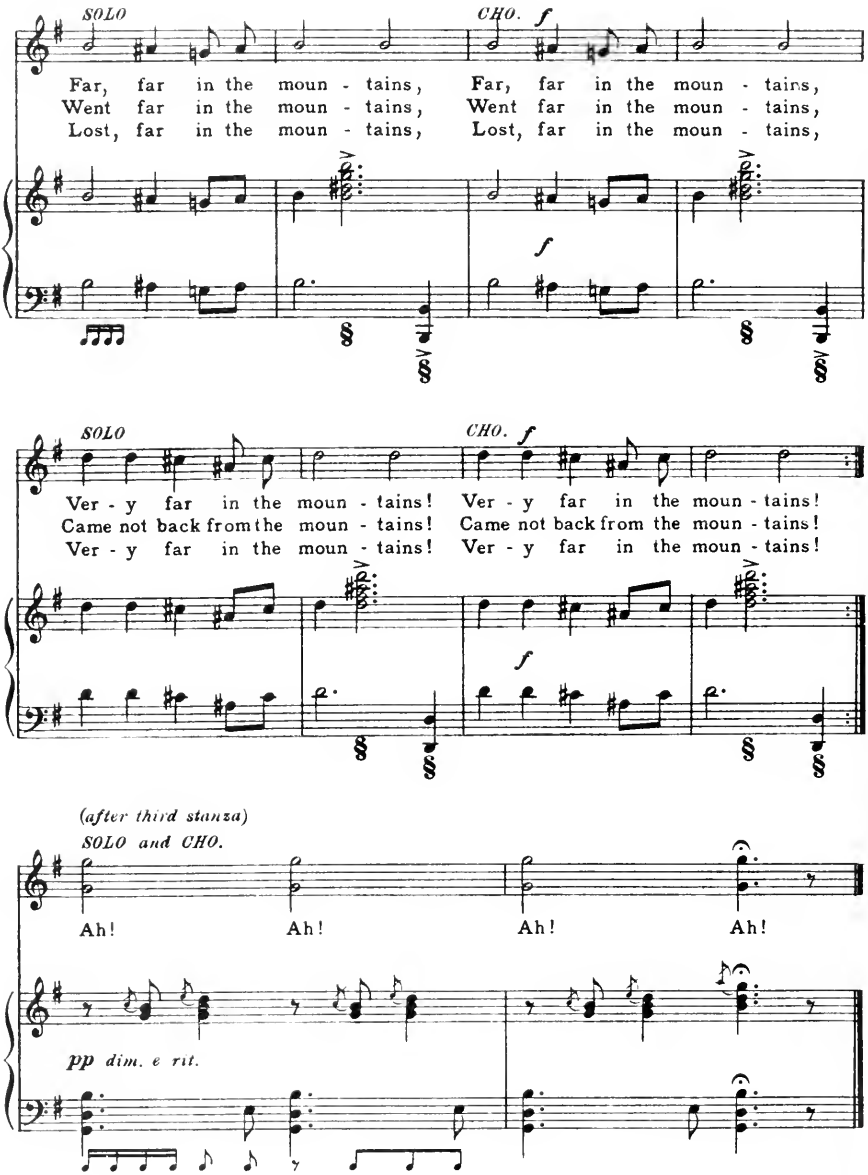
Nº 3. Solo and Chorus

(Princess Chan)

On a Day




CHO.
I re - call,
Woe is me,
All a - lone;
She re - calls,
Woe is she,
All a - lone;
SOLO
When my_ broth-er
When my_ broth-er
But my_ broth-er
And my_ sis - ter
And my_ sis - ter
And my_ sis - ter
CHO.
Went with me,
Out at play,
They were gone;
Went with her,
Out at play,
They were gone;

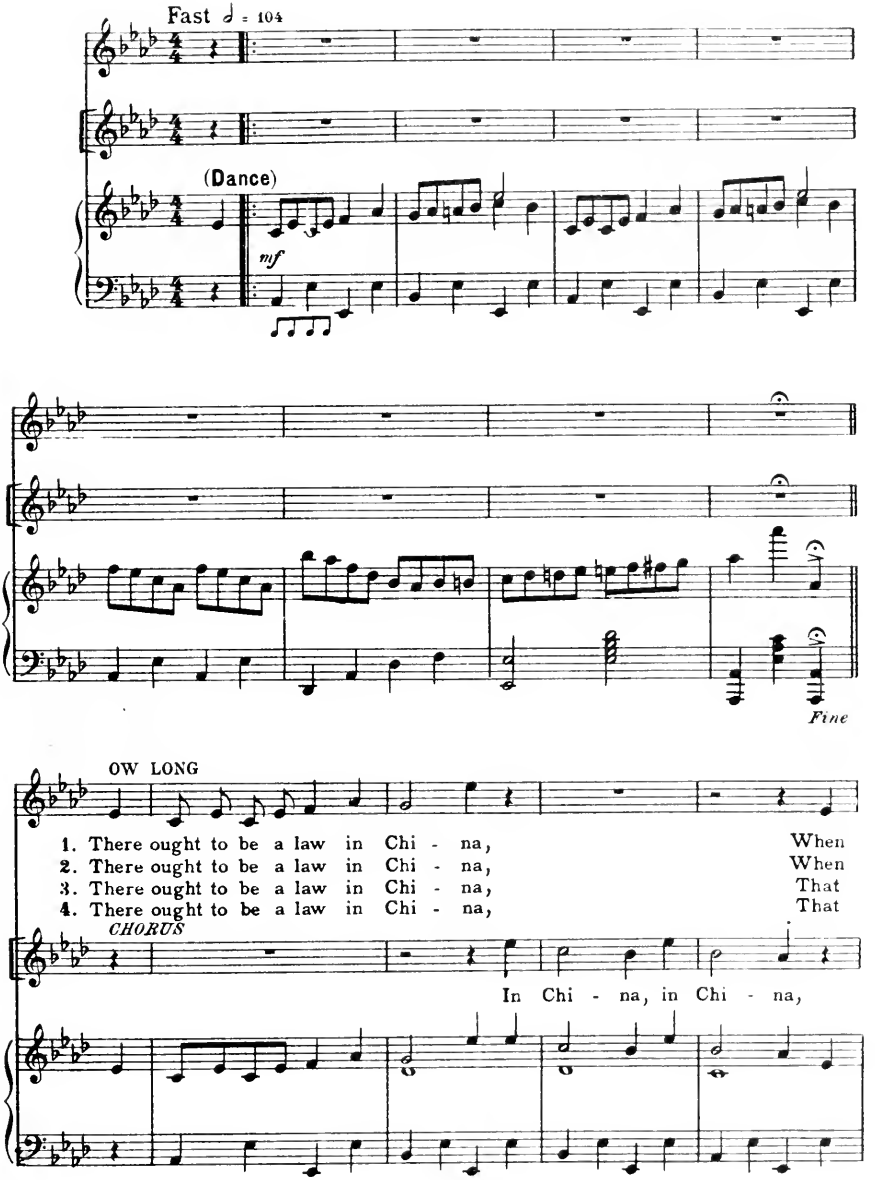


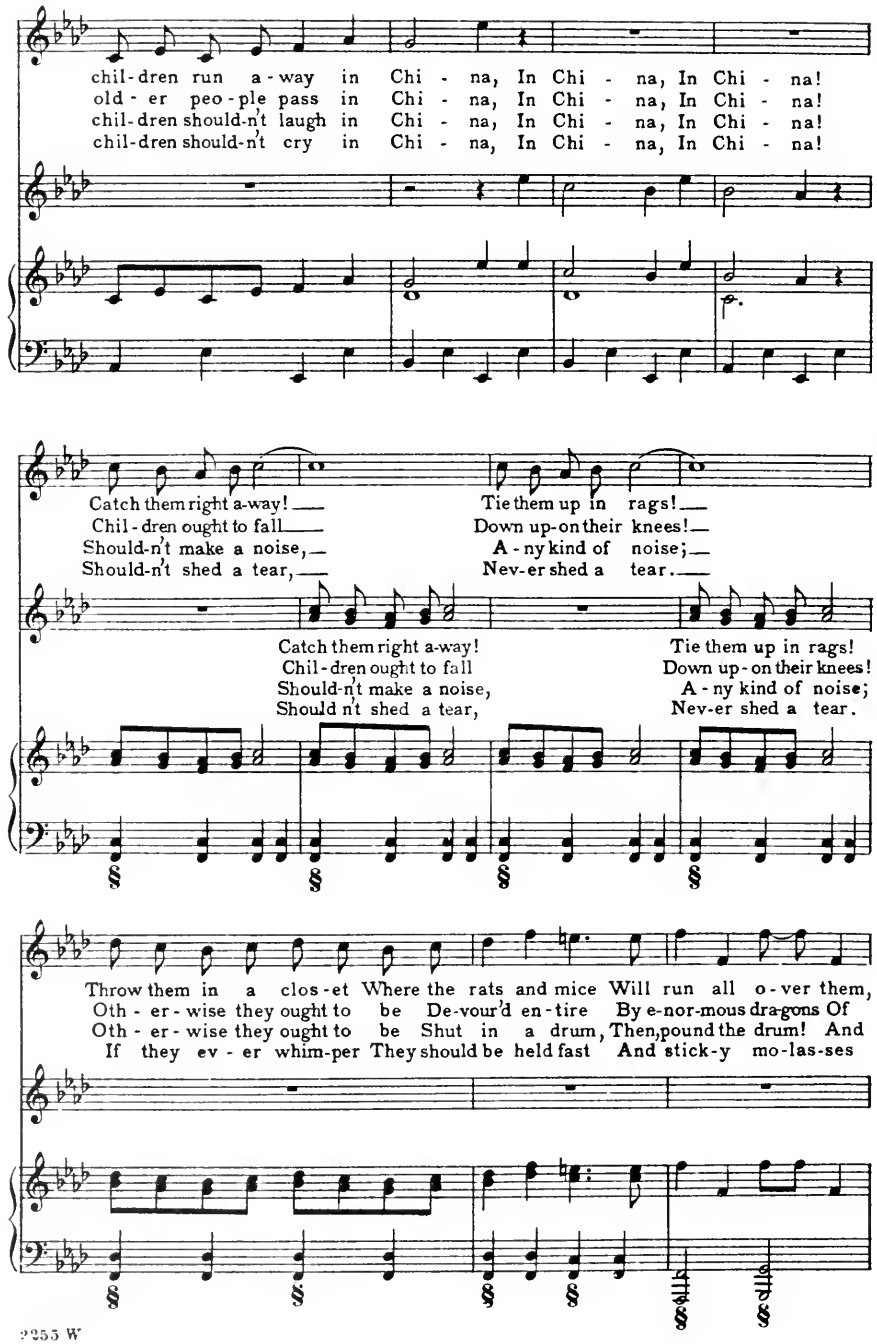
Ow Long: "If your brother and sister and you yourself had minded me when you were little children, *they* would be here to-day and *you* would be happy. There ought to be a law in China about such things.

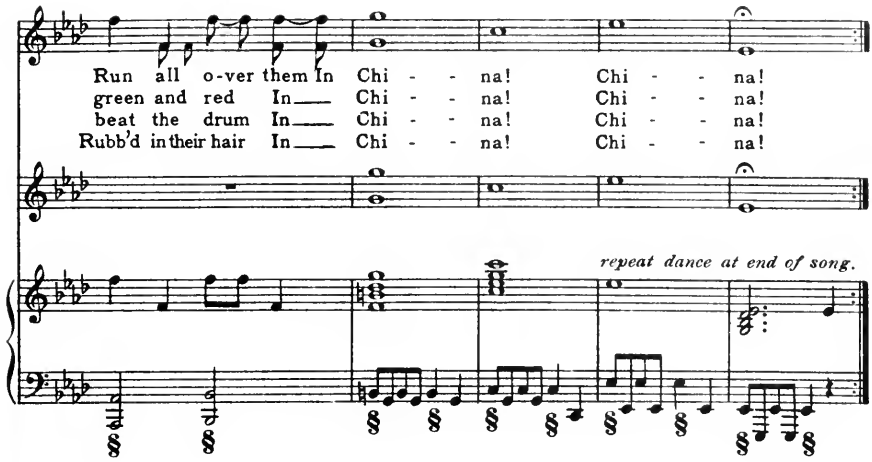
Nº 4. Solo and Chorus

(Ow Long)

There ought to be a law in China




chil-dren run a-way in Chi - na, In Chi - na, In Chi - na!
old - er peo - ple pass in Chi - na, In Chi - na, In Chi - na!
chil-dren should-n't laugh in Chi - na, In Chi - na, In Chi - na!
chil-dren should-n't cry in Chi - na, In Chi - na, In Chi - na!
Catch them right a-way! Tie them up in rags!
Chil-dren ought to fall Down up-on their knees!
Should-n't make a noise, A-ny kind of noise;
Should-n't shed a tear, Nev-er shed a tear.
Catch them right a-way! Tie them up in rags!
Chil-dren ought to fall Down up-on their knees!
Should-n't make a noise, A-ny kind of noise;
Should n't shed a tear, Nev-er shed a tear.
Throw them in a clos-et Where the rats and mice Will run all o-ver them,
Oth - er-wise they ought to be De-vour'd en-tire By e-nor-mous dragons Of
Oth - er-wise they ought to be Shut in a drum, Then, pound the drum! And
If they ev - er whim-per They should be held fast And stick-y mo-las-ses



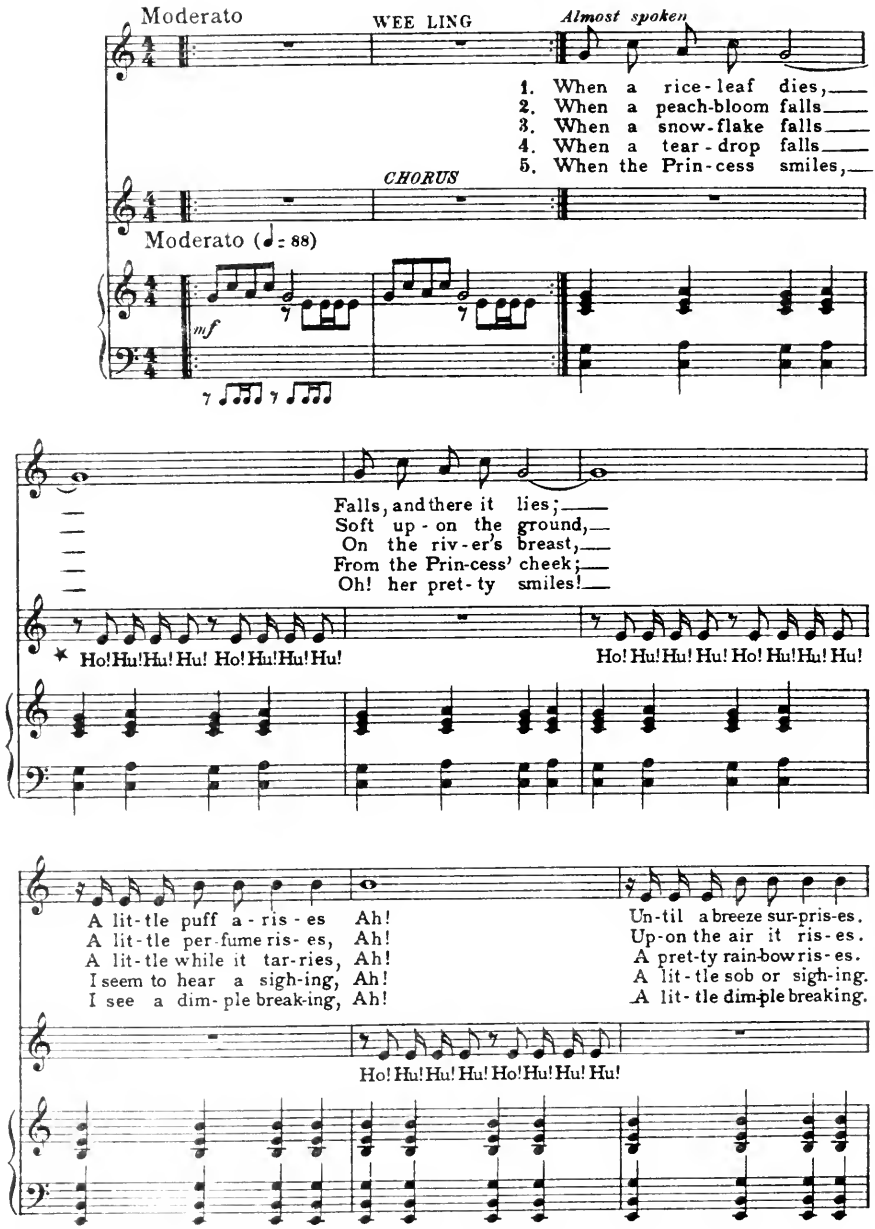
P. C. "Oh I know very well that you would punish terribly all the children in China, and of course if you had your own way everything would be perfectly lovely. However, that does not bring me back my little brother and sister, and I am most unhappy. Why, at night when the ghosts are out for their walks I sometimes wake startled, for I think I see in the dark corner of my room a white - white form - and it seems -

W. L. "Oh do let us sing the ghost song - please - please."

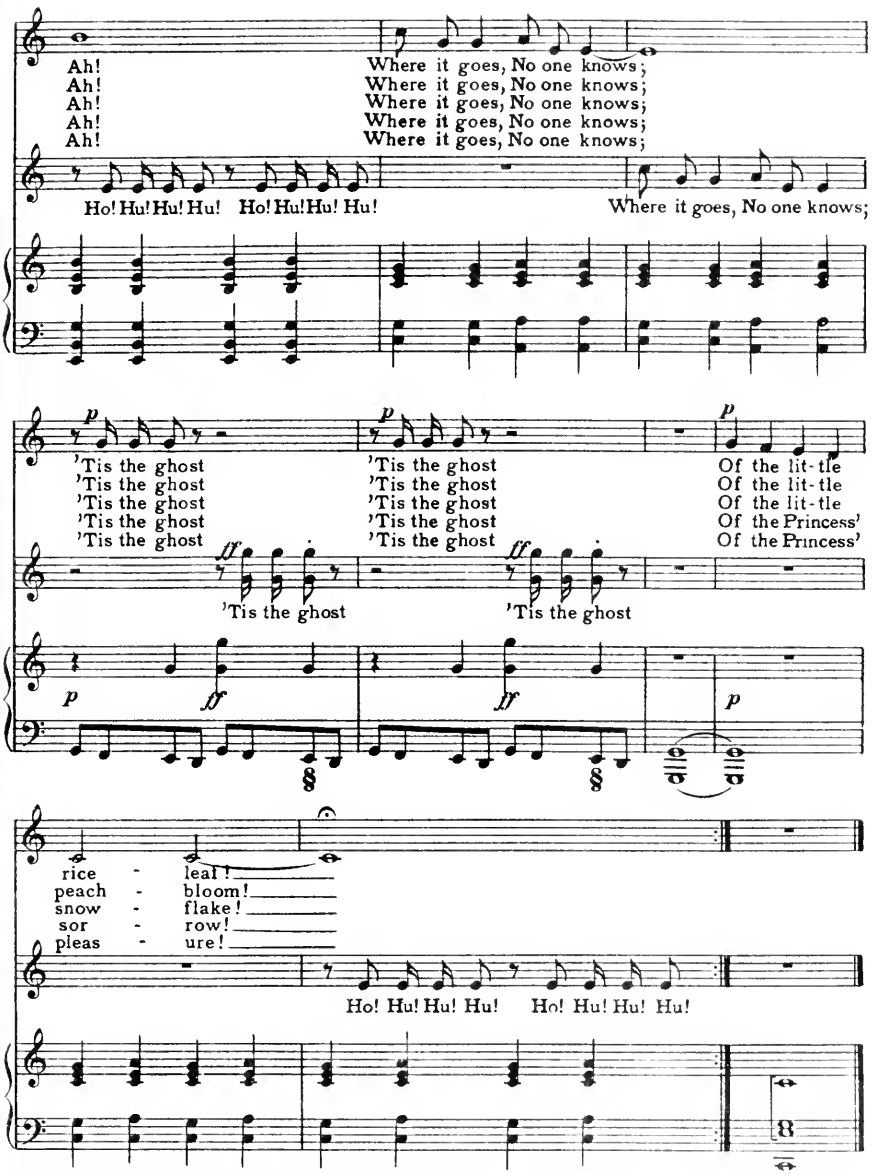
P. C. "I am too sad to sing but as you all know the song so well, I will."

№ 5. Ghost Song

Wee Ling



* This expression should be varied according to the Solo



W. L. "Beautiful mistress we all feel most keenly for you, and to entertain you to-night we have a great surprise in store."

P. C. "A great surprise? What is it?"

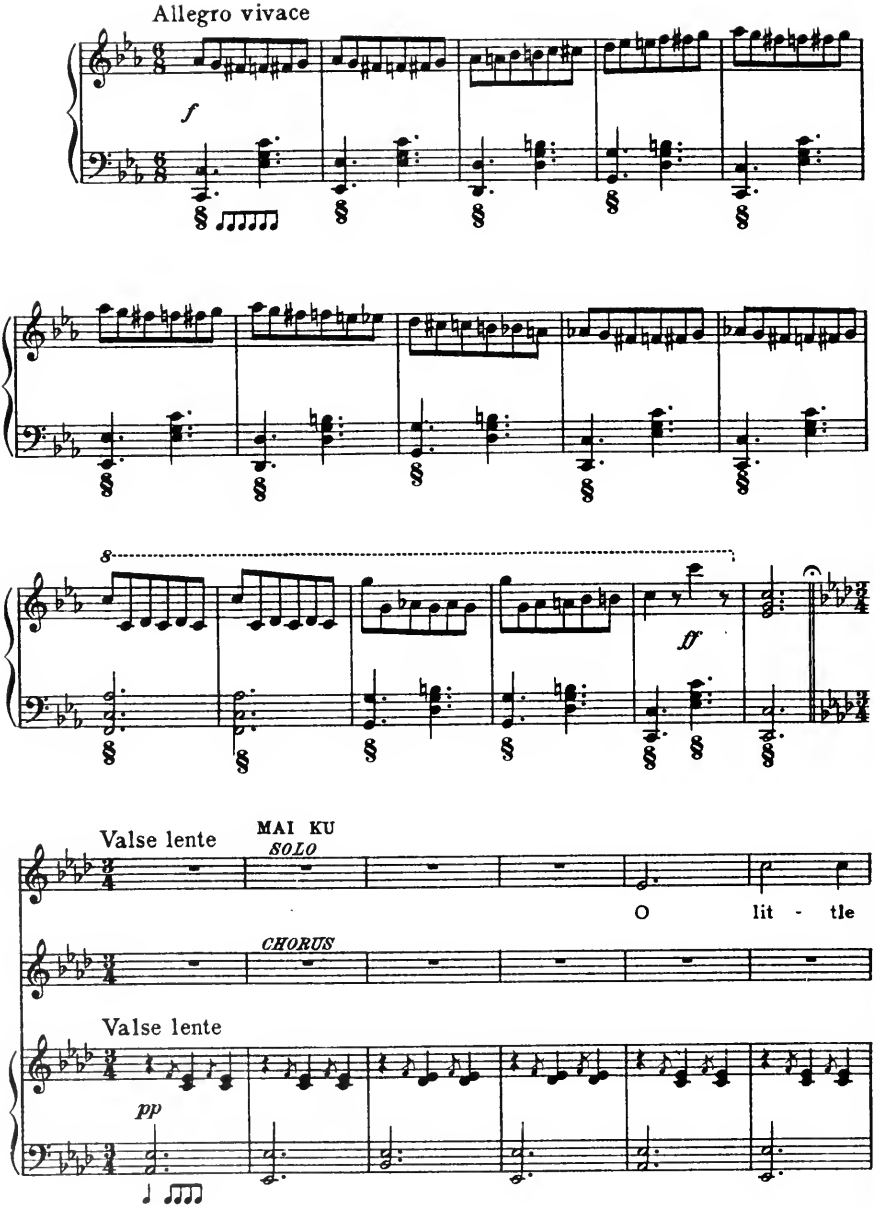
W. L. "A band of jugglers was without the gates to-day and among them was a most beautiful girl, said to be the cleverest of the troup, and we have asked her to perform before you to-night."

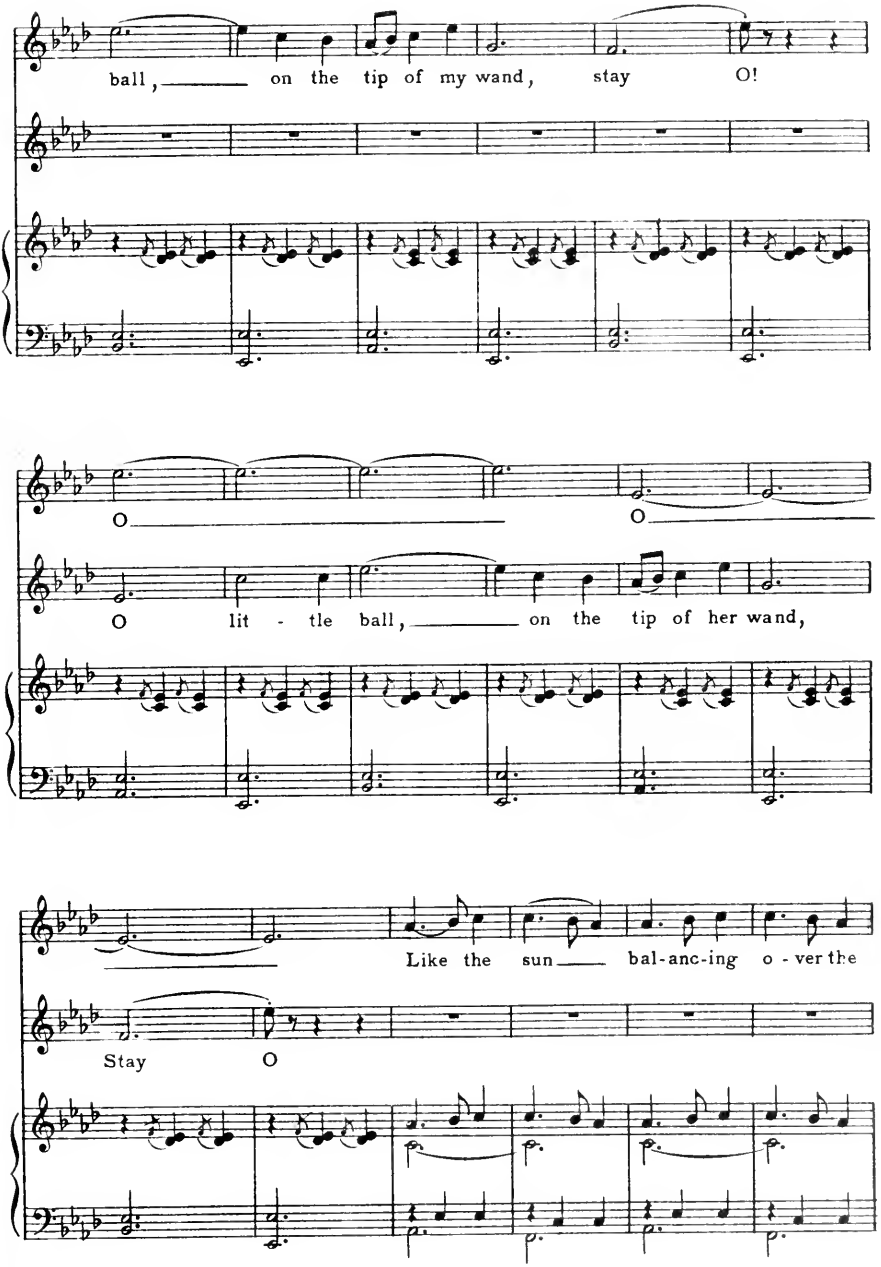
P. C. "Oh, very well - let her be summoned."

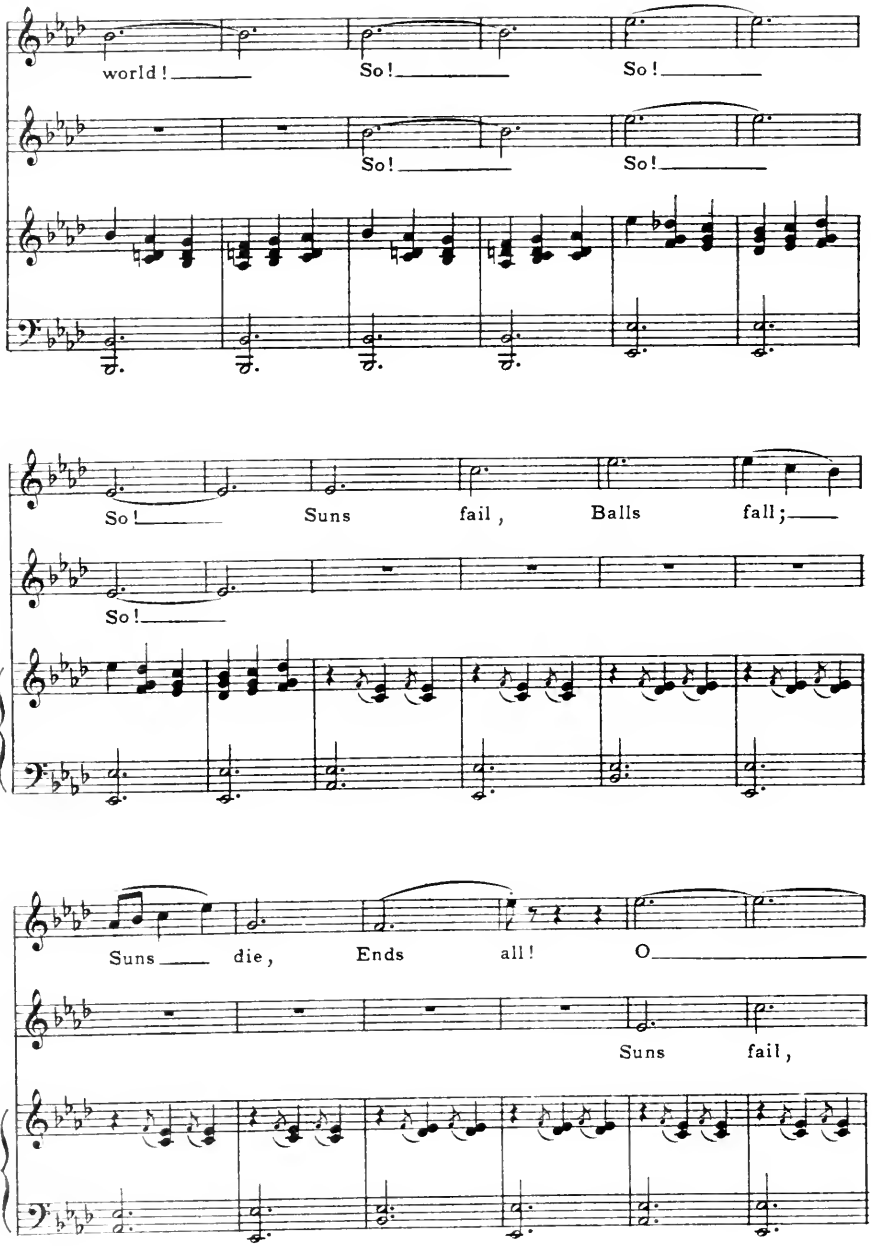
№ 6. Solo and Chorus

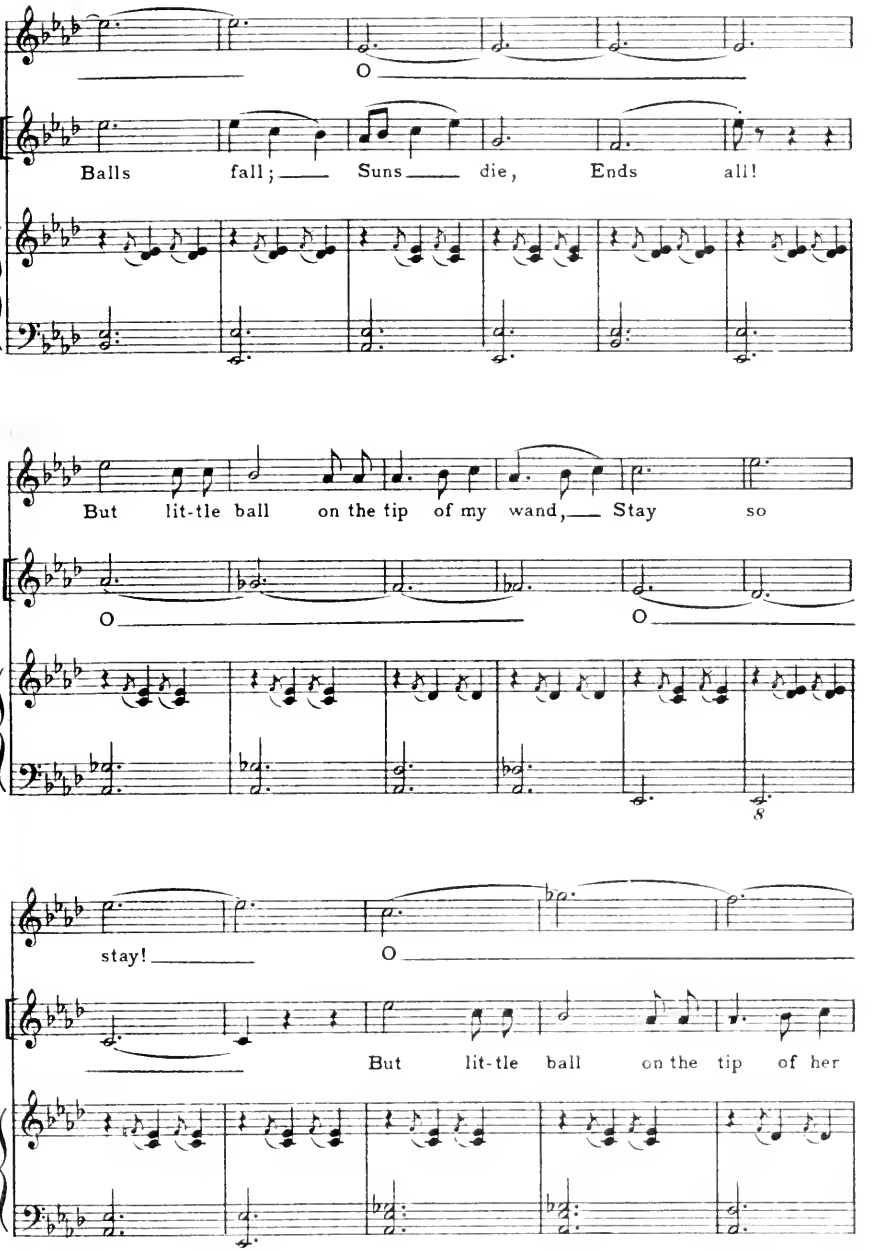
Mai Ku

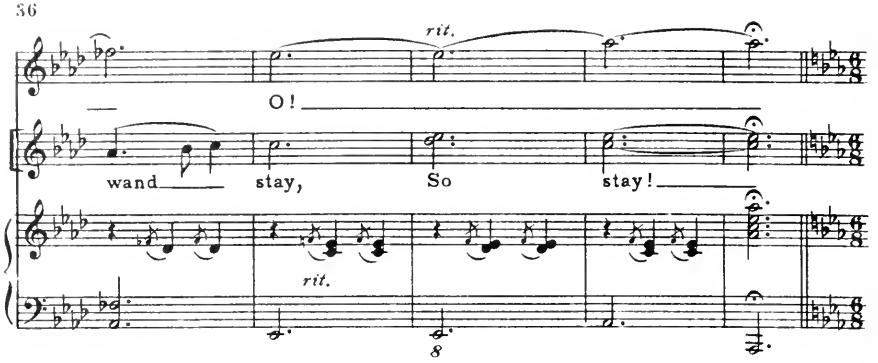
O Little Ball




ball, on the tip of my wand, stay O!
O O
O lit - tle ball, on the tip of her wand,
Like the sun bal-anc-ing o - ver the
Stay O

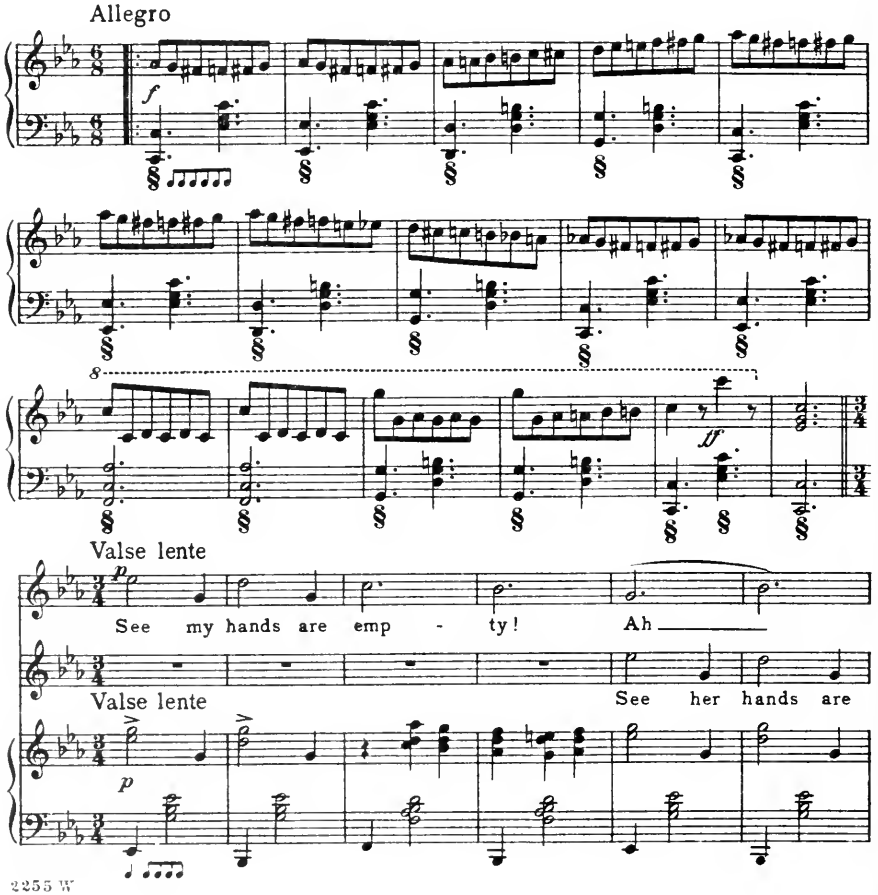

world! So! So!
So! So!
So! Suns fail, Balls fall;
So!
Suns die, Ends all! O
Suns fail,

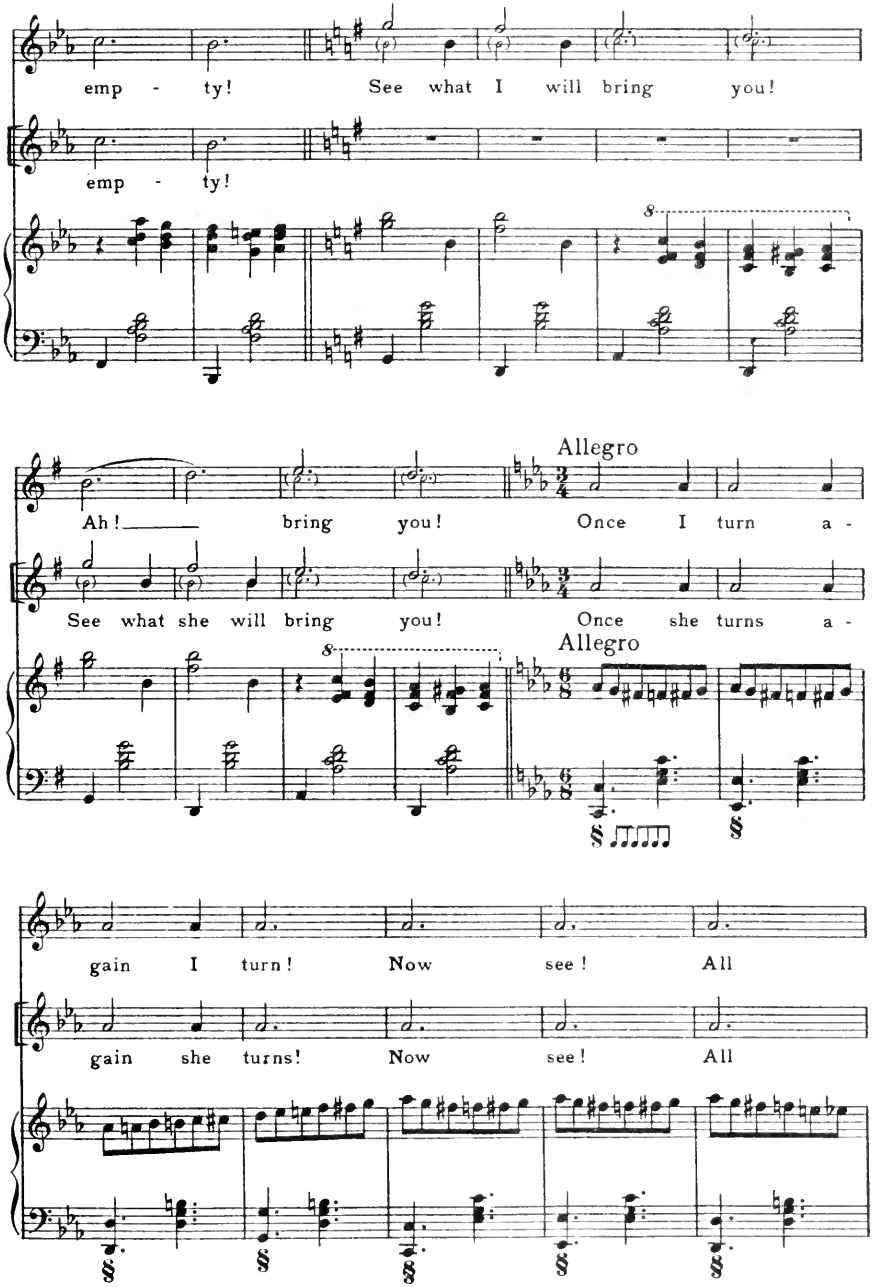

O
Balls fall; Suns die, Ends all!
But lit-tle ball on the tip of my wand, Stay so
O
O
8
stay!
O
But lit-tle ball on the tip of her

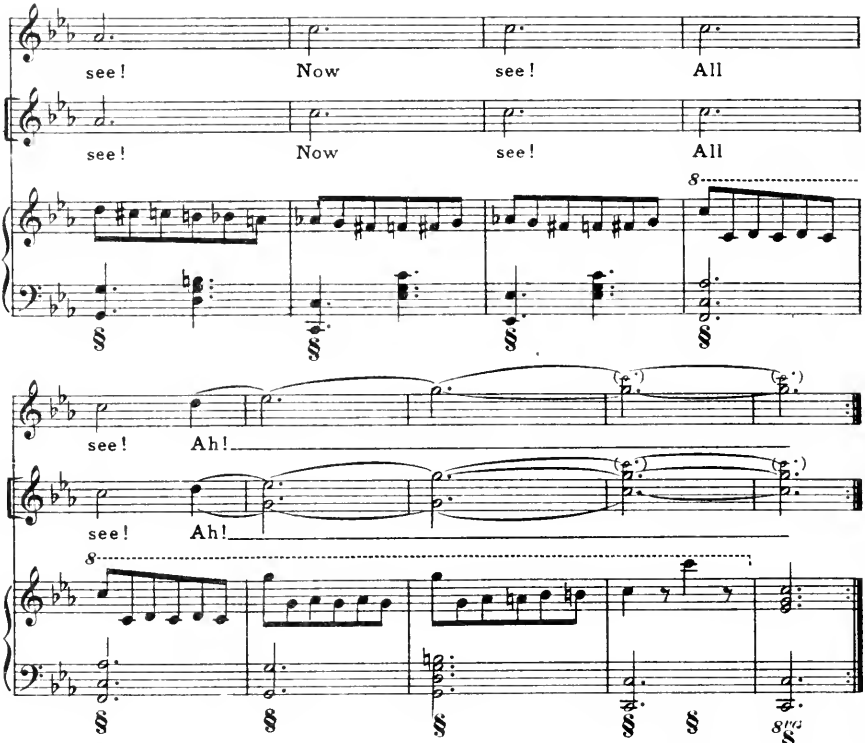


Ow Long *(speaks)* "There ought to be a law in China against such foolishness."

(Chorus chases her, beating her with fans.)




emp - ty! See what I will bring you!
emp - ty!
Allegro
Ah! bring you! Once I turn a -
See what she will bring you! Once she turns a -
Allegro
gain I turn! Now see! All
gain she turns! Now see! All



Mai Ku sings this solo twice or three times, each time producing something from her sleeves, such as confetti, or colored papers which she throws to the chorus on either side.

P. C. "Oh Beautiful! Beautiful! Such a graceful girl and so beautiful. Oh, I am charmed with it all. But (to Juggler) tell me were you born of Jugglers and have you always lived among them?"

Mai Ku *(Juggler)* "Oh, no, and I am so very weary of the life with them. I just remember when I was very young, a beautiful garden like this and a large lake on which the dragon-boats sailed. Then I was very happy, but it was long, long ago and now I must do my little tricks all the days or I will be cruelly punished by the master-juggler!"

P. C. "Horrible! Horrible! To think of your being punished!"

Ow Long. "There ought to be a law, etc."

(Wee Ling enters) **W. L.** "The Emperor has summoned the band of jugglers to the palace at once and the master-juggler bids me bring Mai Ku to the gates."

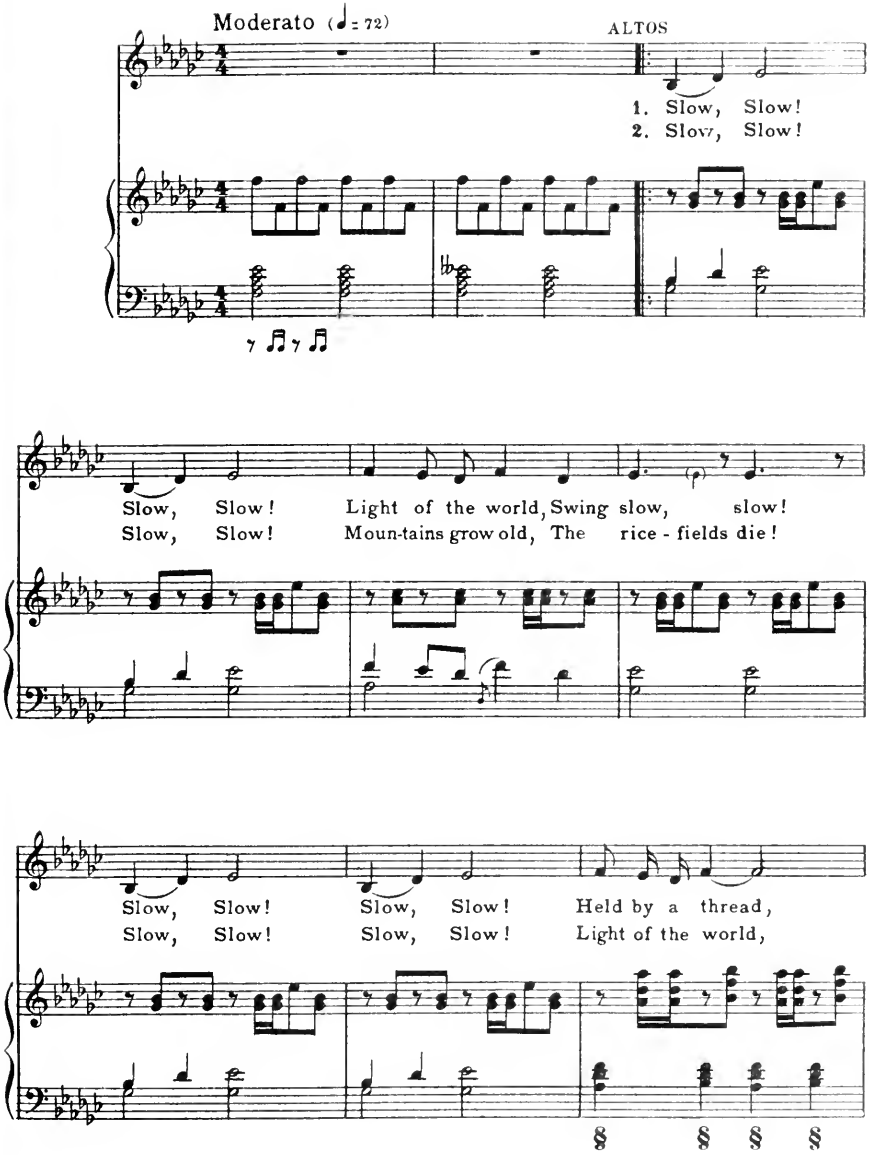
Mai Ku. "Alas, but I must go, but will you let me come back at once to play more for you?"

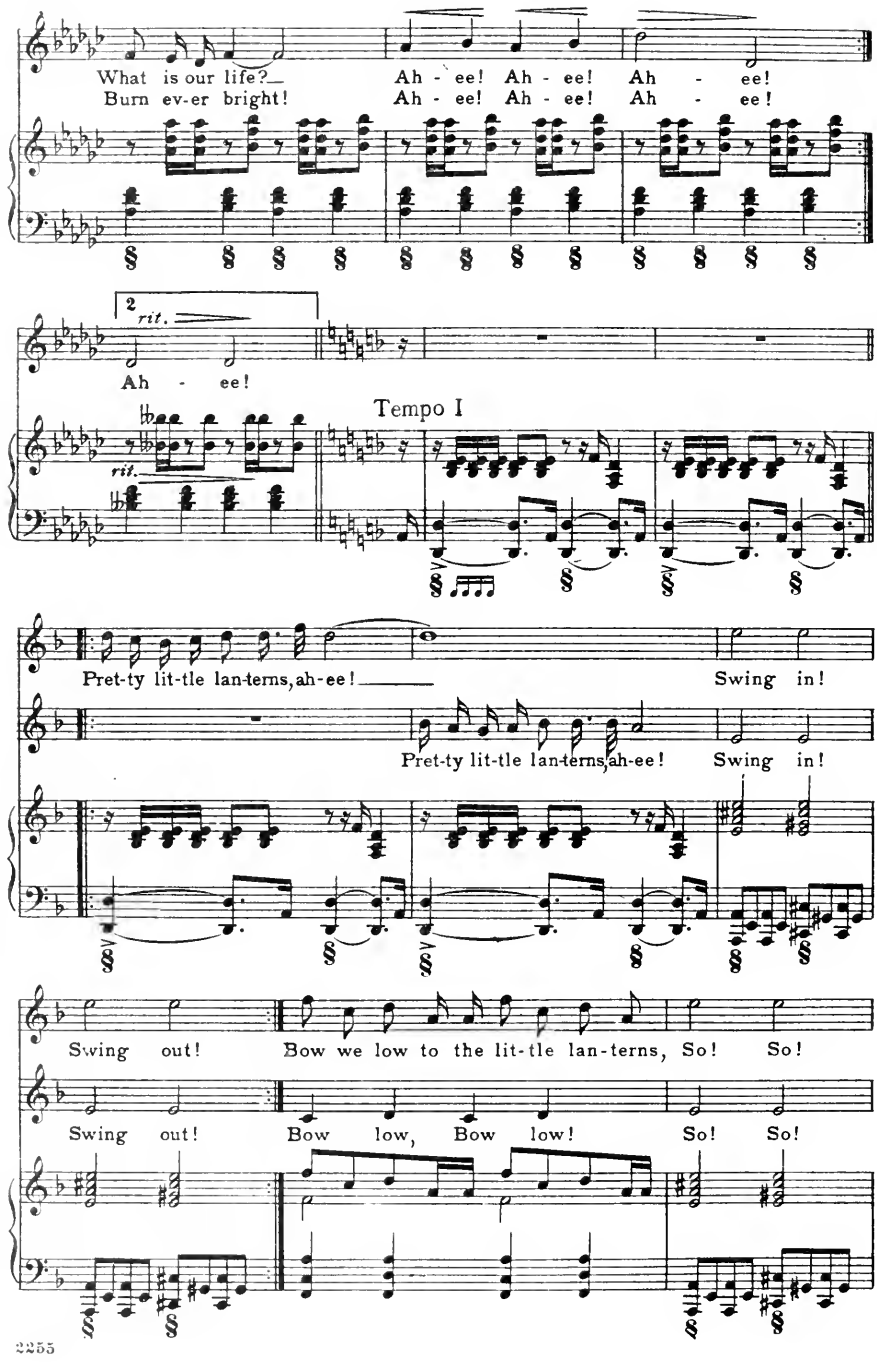
All. "Yes, Yes."

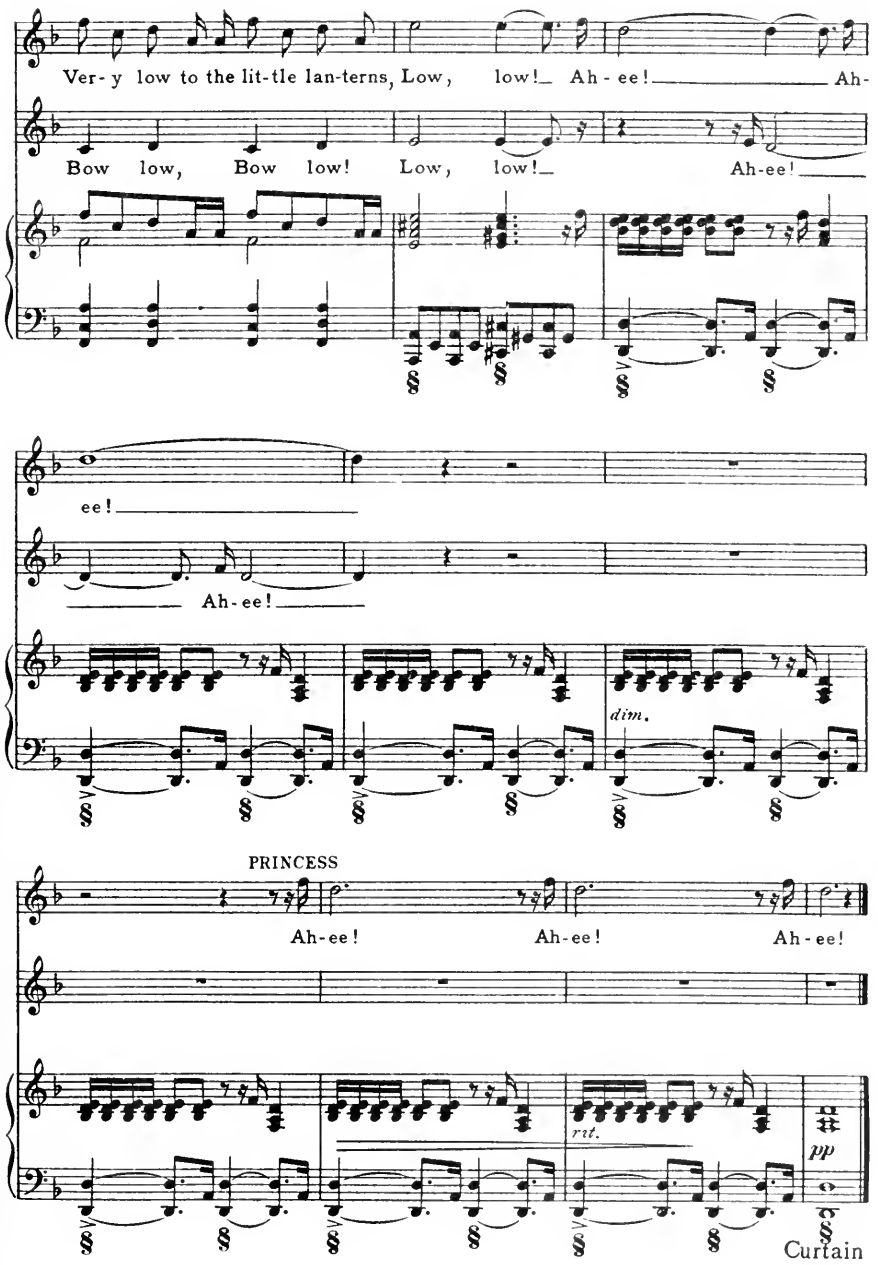
W. L. "We will all go with you to the outer gate."

No 7. Chorus

Slow. Slow



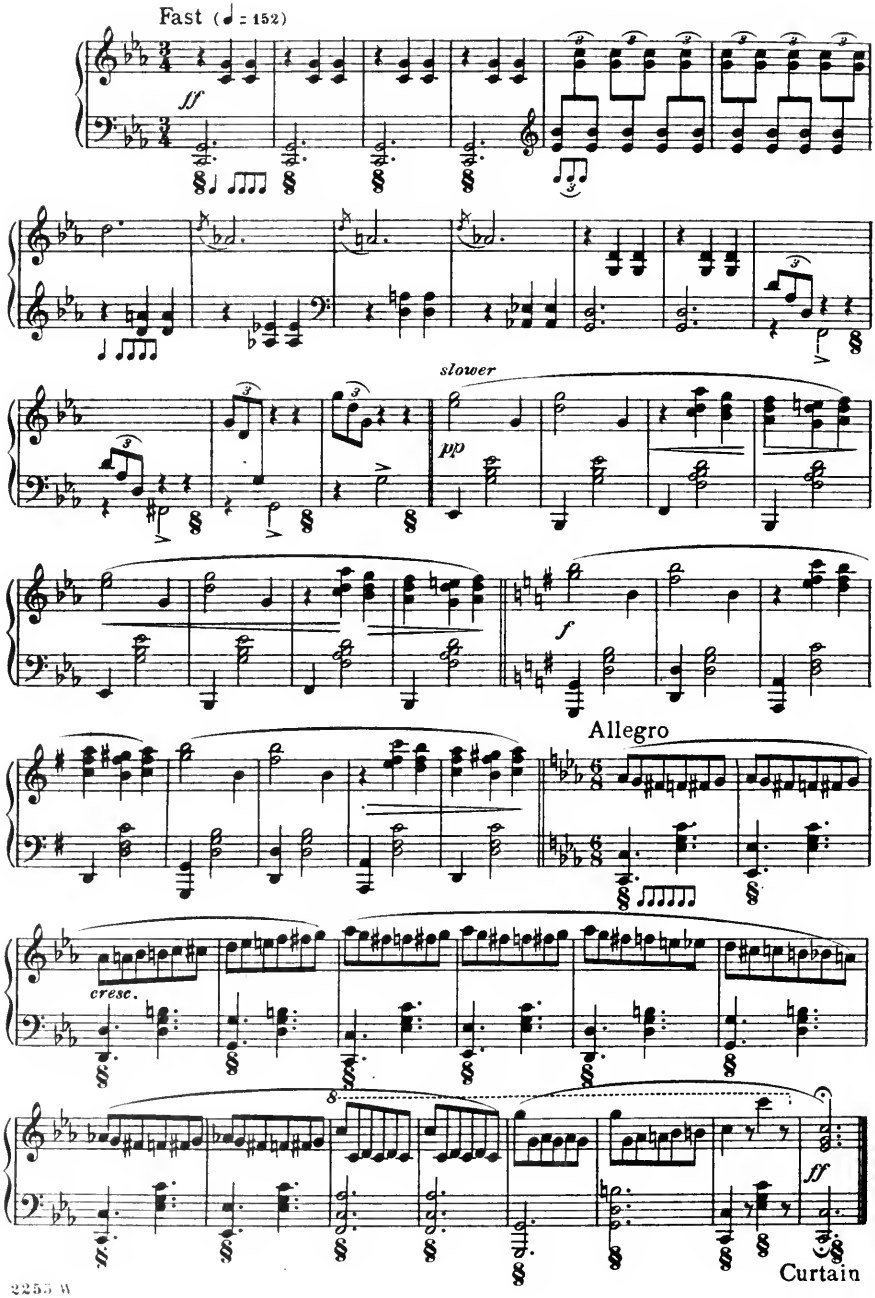

What is our life?
Burn ev-er bright!
Ah - ee! Ah - ee! Ah - ee!
Ah - ee! Ah - ee! Ah - ee!
2
rit.
Ah - ee!
Tempo I
rit.
Pret-ty lit-tle lan-terns, ah-ee!
Swing in!
Pret-ty lit-tle lan-terns, ah-ee!
Swing in!
Swing out!
Bow we low to the lit-tle lan-terns, So! So!
Swing out!
Bow low, Bow low!
So! So!


Ver-y low to the lit-tle lan-terns, Low, low! Ah-ee! Ah-
Bow low, Bow low! Low, low! Ah-ee!
ee!
Ah-ee!
dim.
PRINCESS
Ah-ee! Ah-ee! Ah-ee!
rit.
pp
Curtain

End of Act I.

Act II

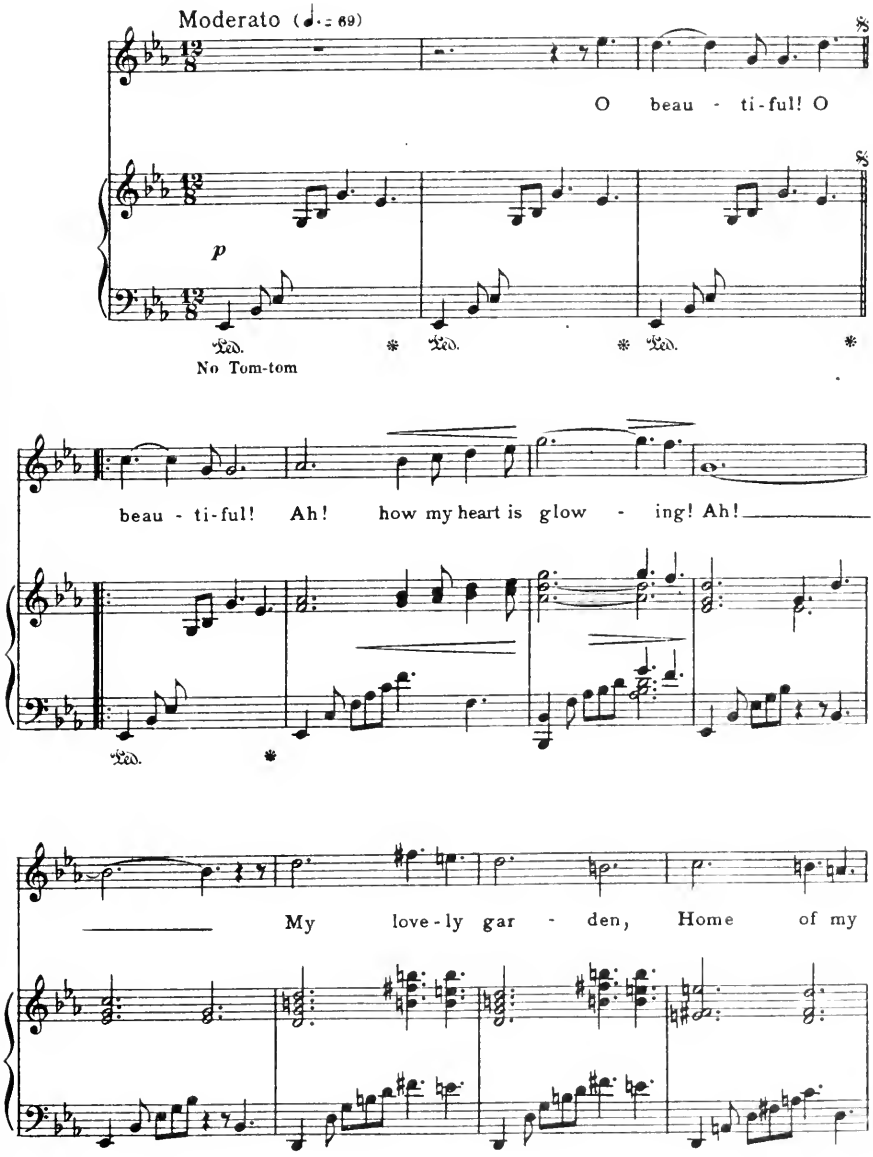
№ 8. Instrumental Introduction

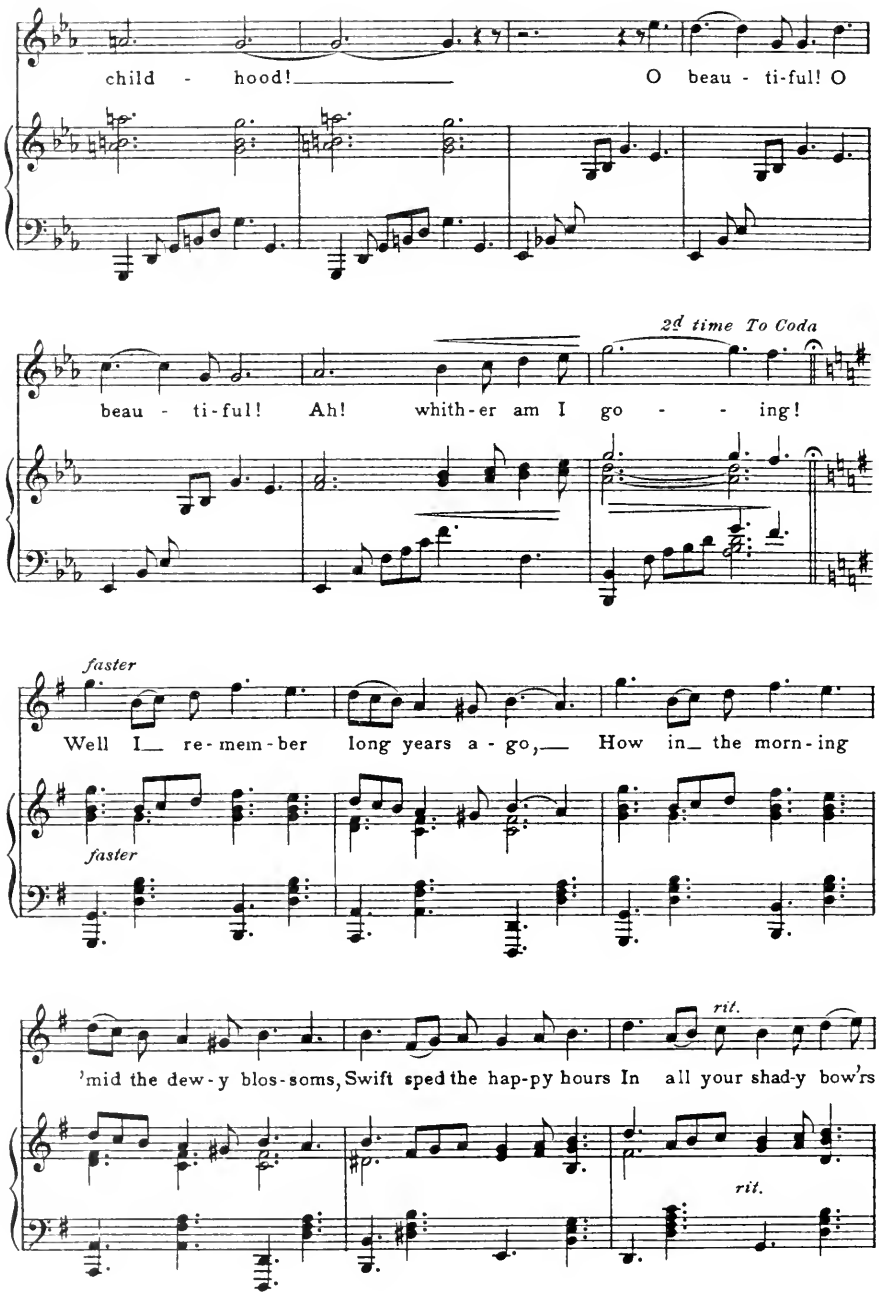


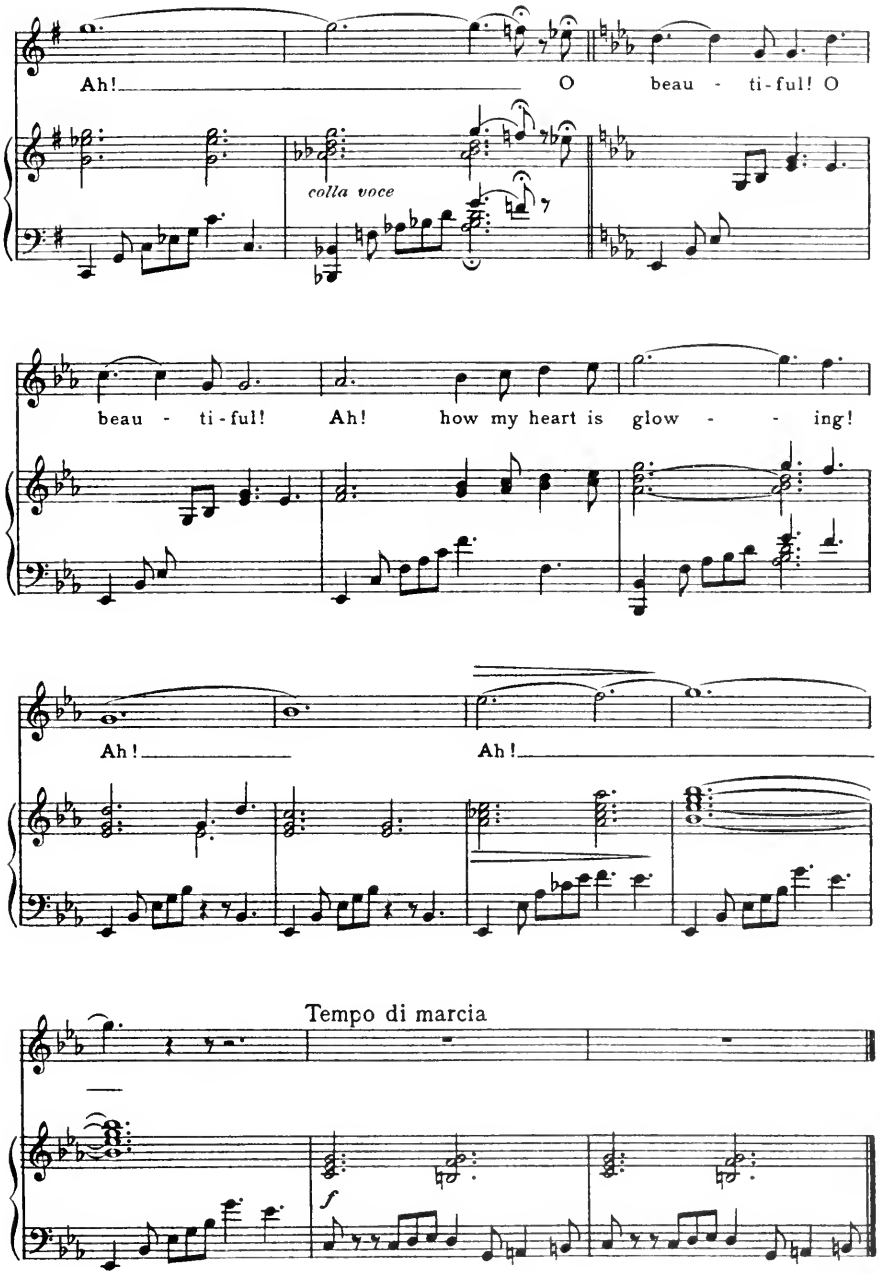
Nº 9. Solo

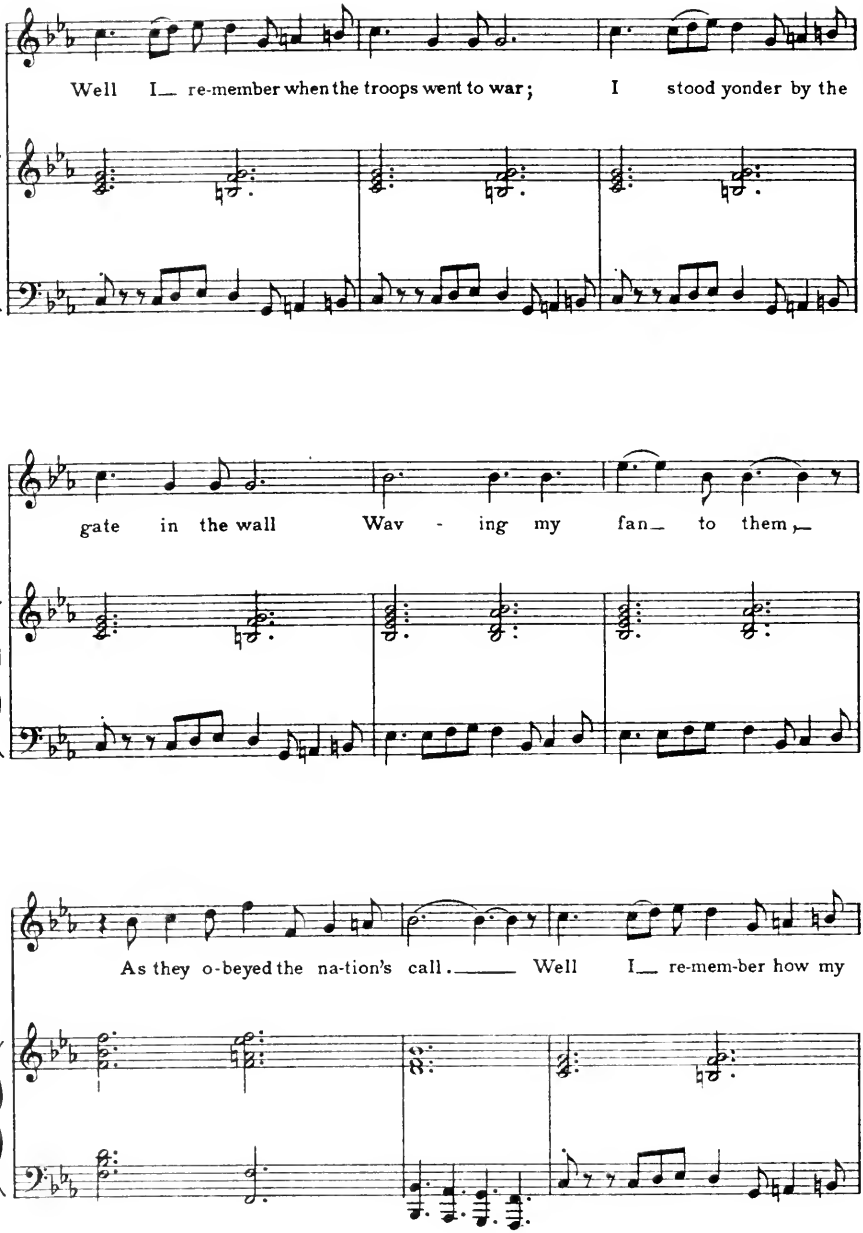
Princess Chan

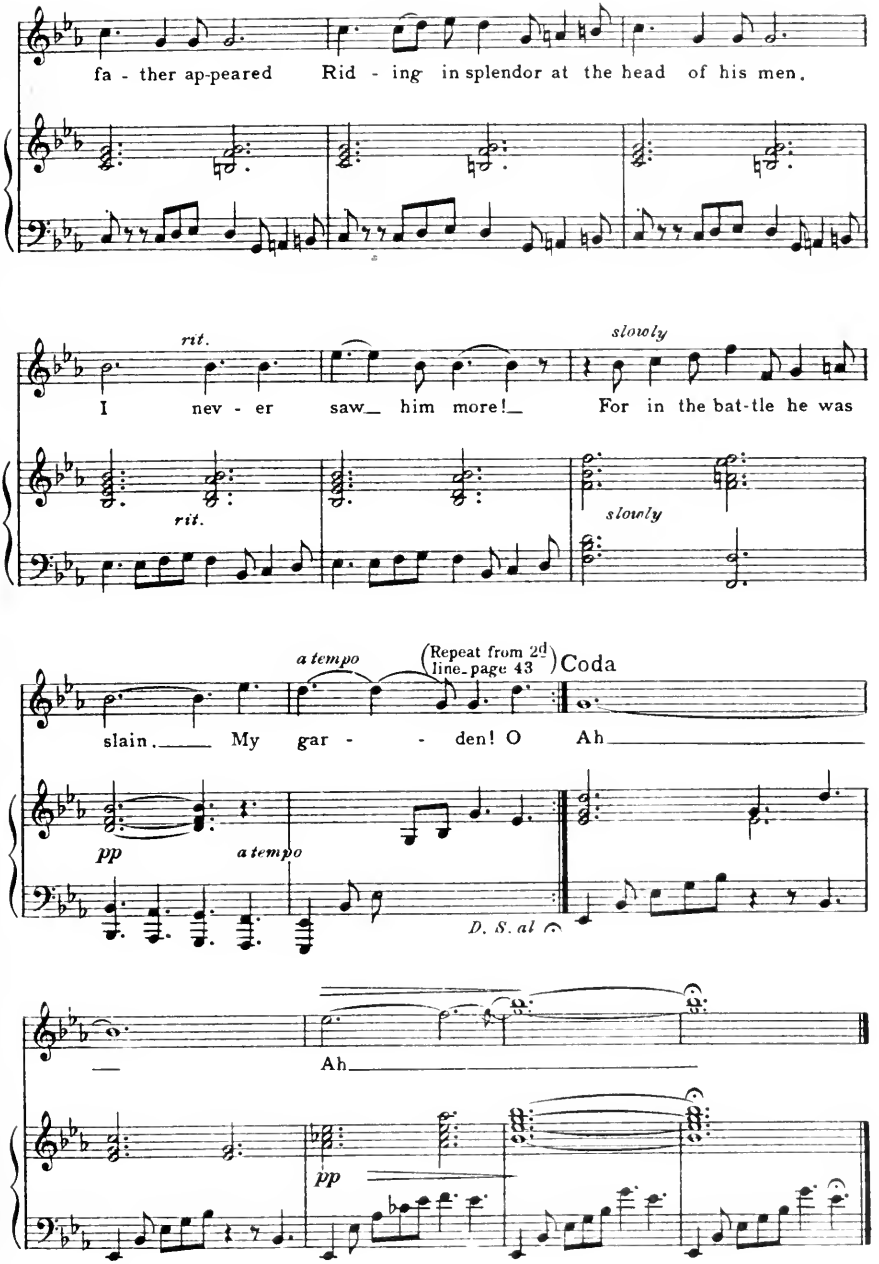
O beautiful!




child - hood!
O beau - ti-ful! O
2d time To Coda
beau - ti-ful! Ah! whith-er am I go - - ing!
faster
Well I re-mem-ber long years a - go, How in the morn-ing
faster
'mid the dew-y blos-soms, Swift sped the hap-py hours In all your shad-y bow'rs
rit.
rit.

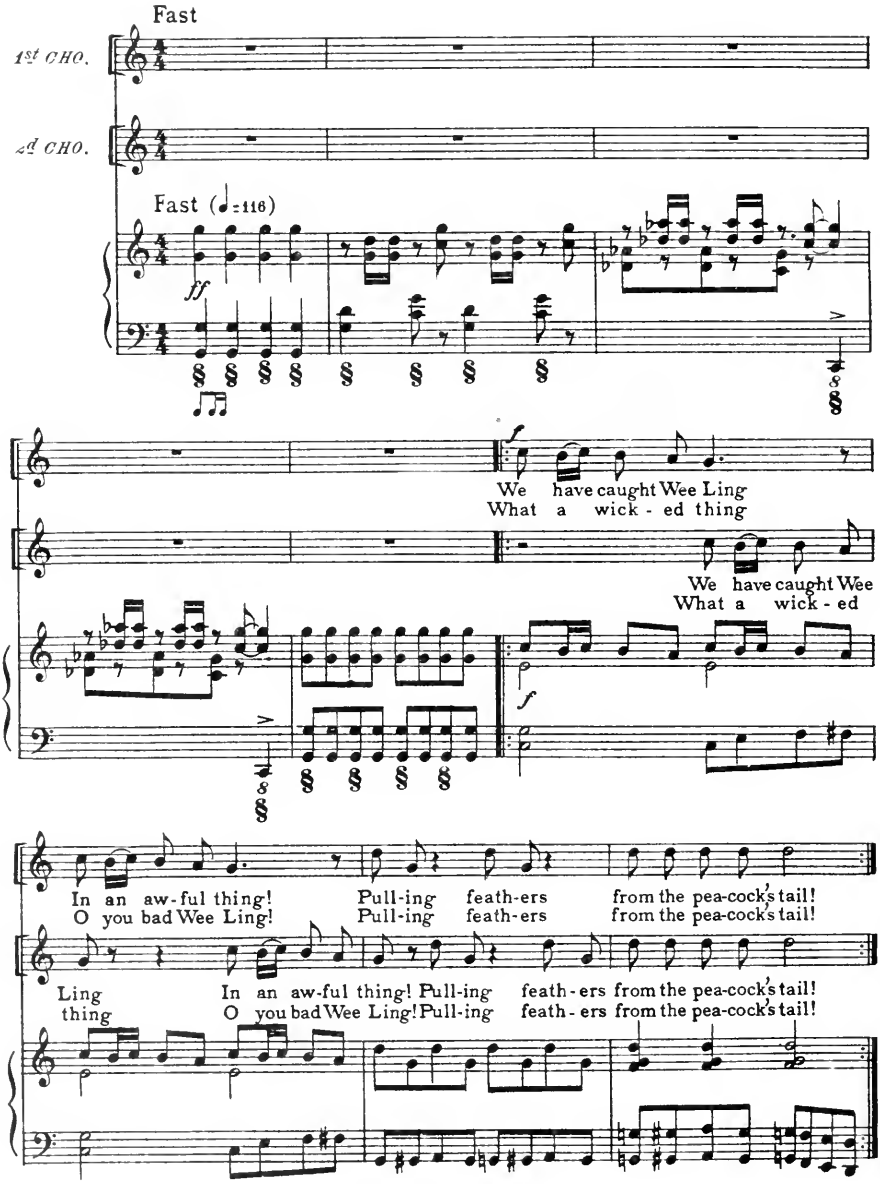

Ah! O beau - ti-ful! O
colla voce
beau - ti-ful! Ah! how my heart is glow - - ing!
Ah! Ah!
Tempo di marcia
f

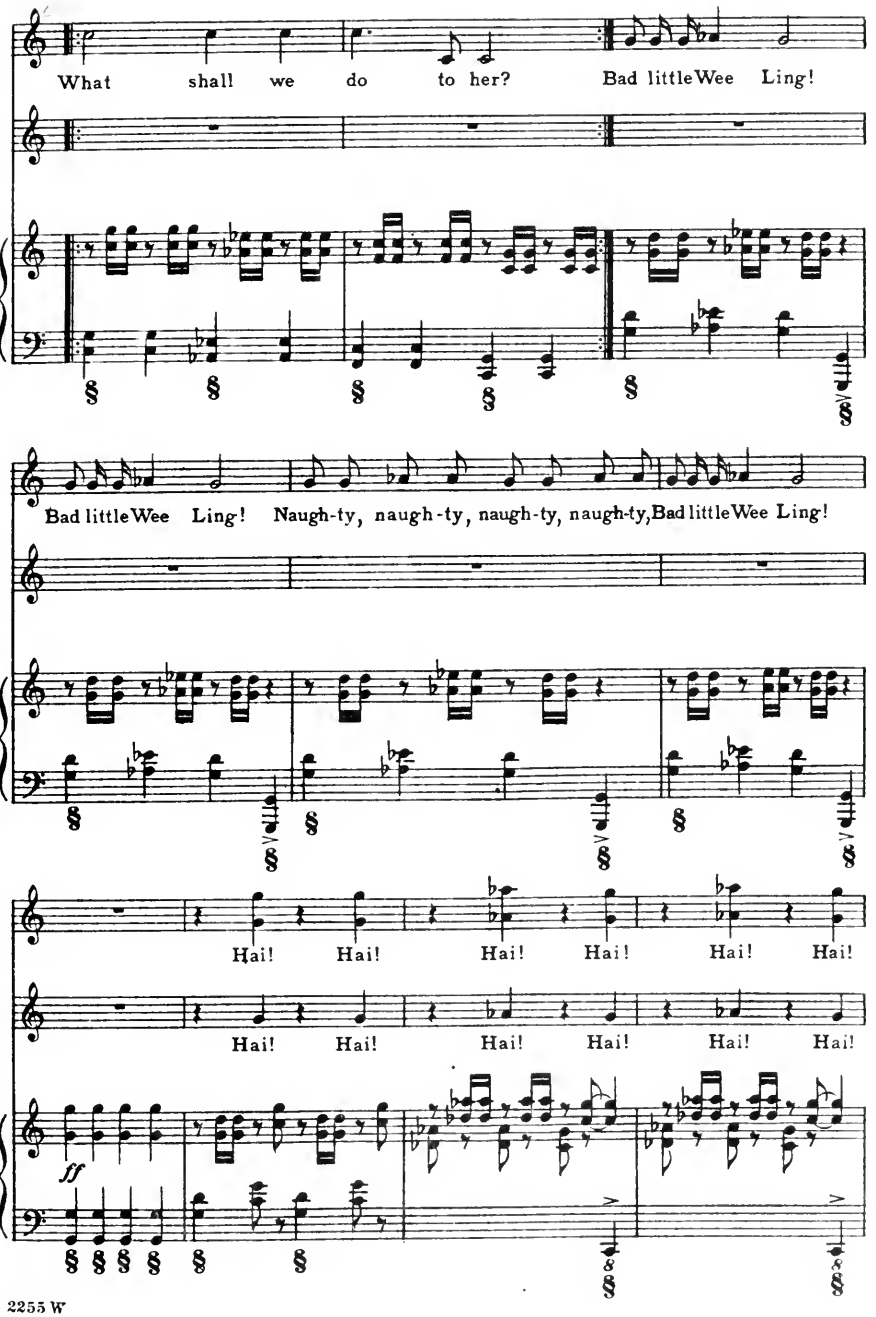

Well I re-member when the troops went to war; I stood yonder by the
gate in the wall Wav - ing my fan to them,
As they o-beyed the na-tion's call. Well I re-mem-ber how my

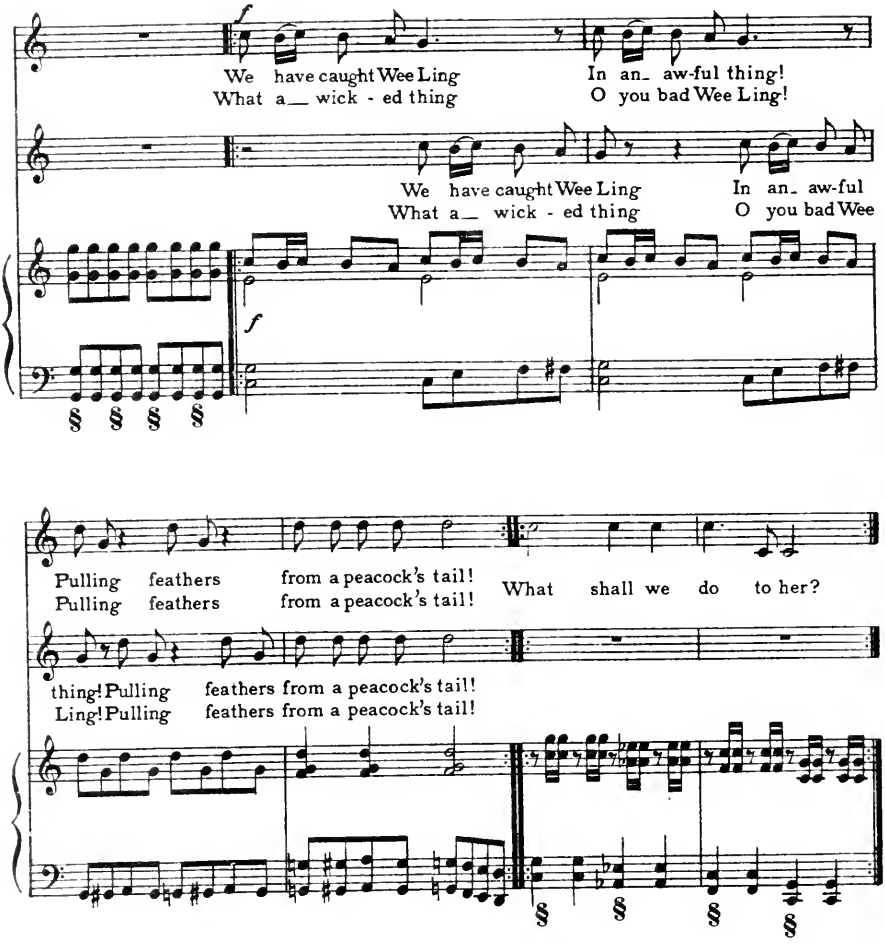

fa - ther ap-peared Rid - ing in splendor at the head of his men.
rit.
I nev - er saw_ him more!_
slowly
For in the bat-tle he was
rit.
slowly
a tempo
(Repeat from 2d line page 43)
Coda
slain._ My gar - - den! O Ah_
pp
a tempo
D. S. al
Ah_
pp

No 10. Chorus

We have caught Wee Ling




What shall we do to her? Bad little Wee Ling!
Bad little Wee Ling! Naugh-ty, naugh-ty, naugh-ty, naugh-ty, Bad little Wee Ling!
Hai! Hai! Hai! Hai! Hai! Hai!
Hai! Hai! Hai! Hai! Hai! Hai!
ff

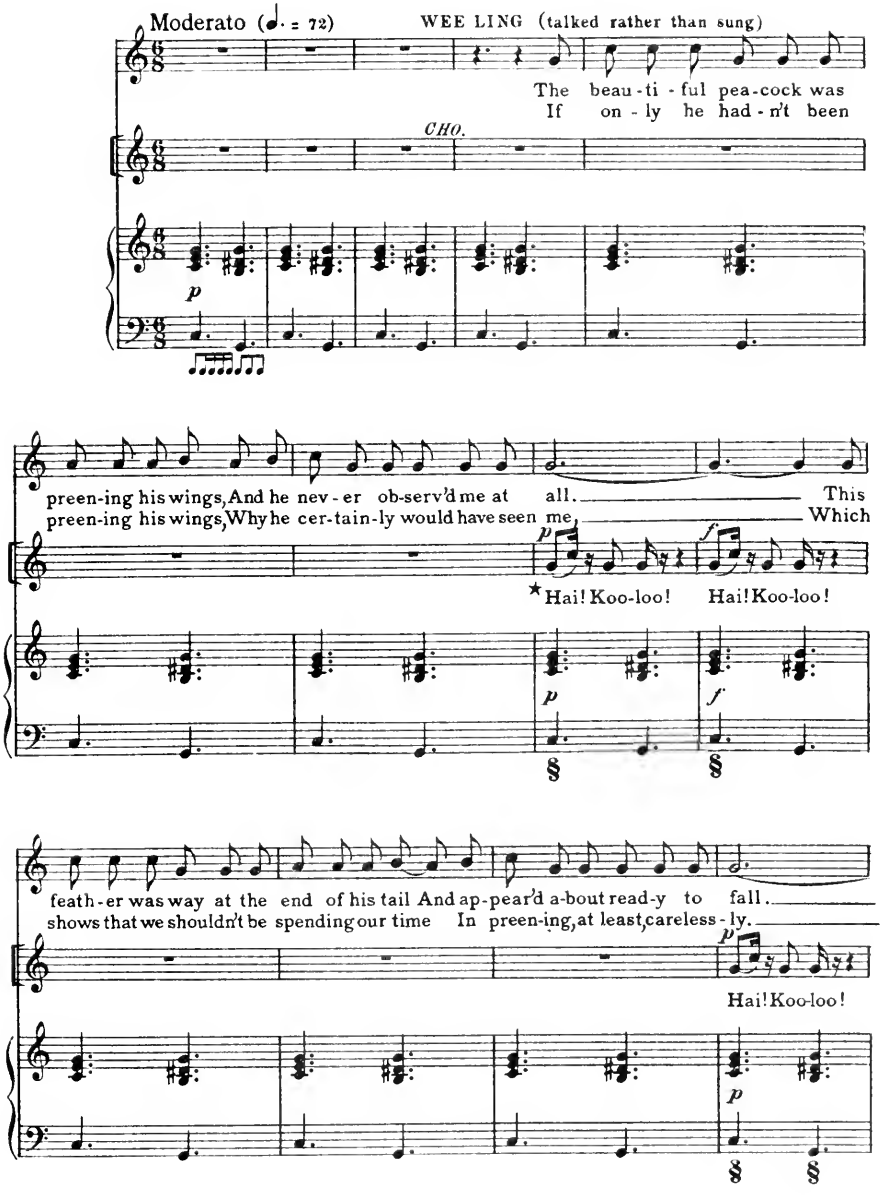


Wee Ling. (*spoken*) "Pity, Princess, please! The beautiful peacock was preening his wings and he never observed me at all.

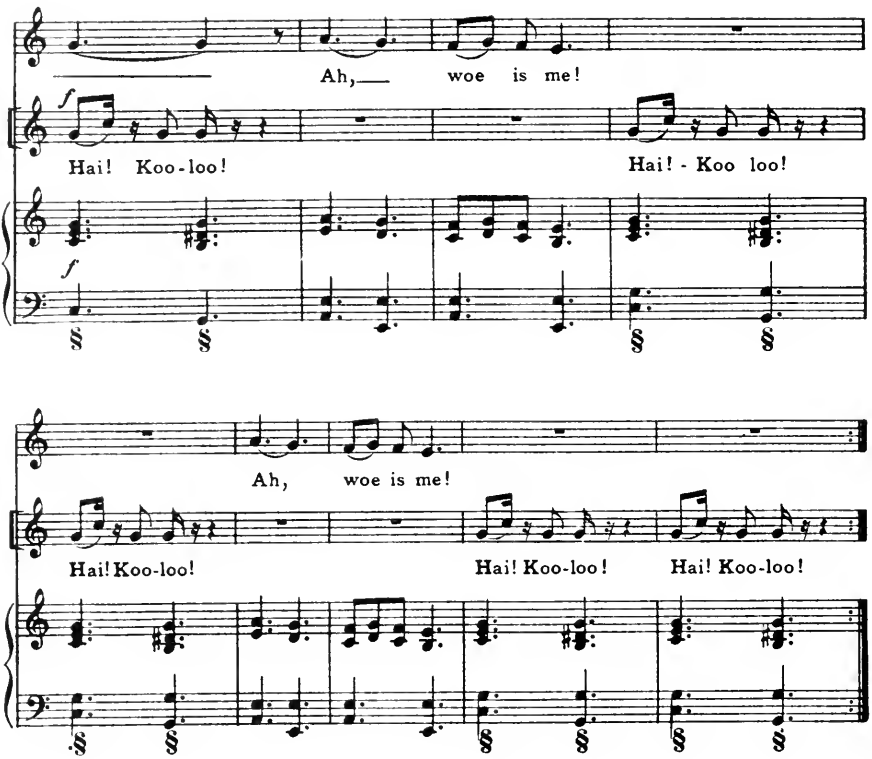
Nº 11. Solo and Chorus

Wee Ling

The beautiful peacock was preening his wings



★ Hai! Koo-loo! An expression of anger.



2. I ween that he wist not that I was at hand,—
(If a peacock can really 'wist')
Now 'mid all this 'preening' and 'weening' and 'wisting'
The feather should never be missed.
I caught up the feather and started to run
Without waiting to see what befell;
It seems that the feather was fast to a bird
Which shows that we never can tell!

3. If only I hadn't espied that one feather
If only the peacock had first espied me,
If only these people had never espied us!
('Espying' is such misery)
And now that *this* feather is here in my hand
I don't care for this feather at all,
Which shows that when next I go after a thing
I must either get nothing or all!

W. L. "But Princess, as we were rushing along, (or as I was being rushed along) I saw the little Juggler maid coming on a run from the palace."

P. C. "I do hope nothing has happened to her."

(Wee Ling runs to gate, beckons and Mai Ku rushes in.)
(Enter Mai Ku out of breath— excited.)

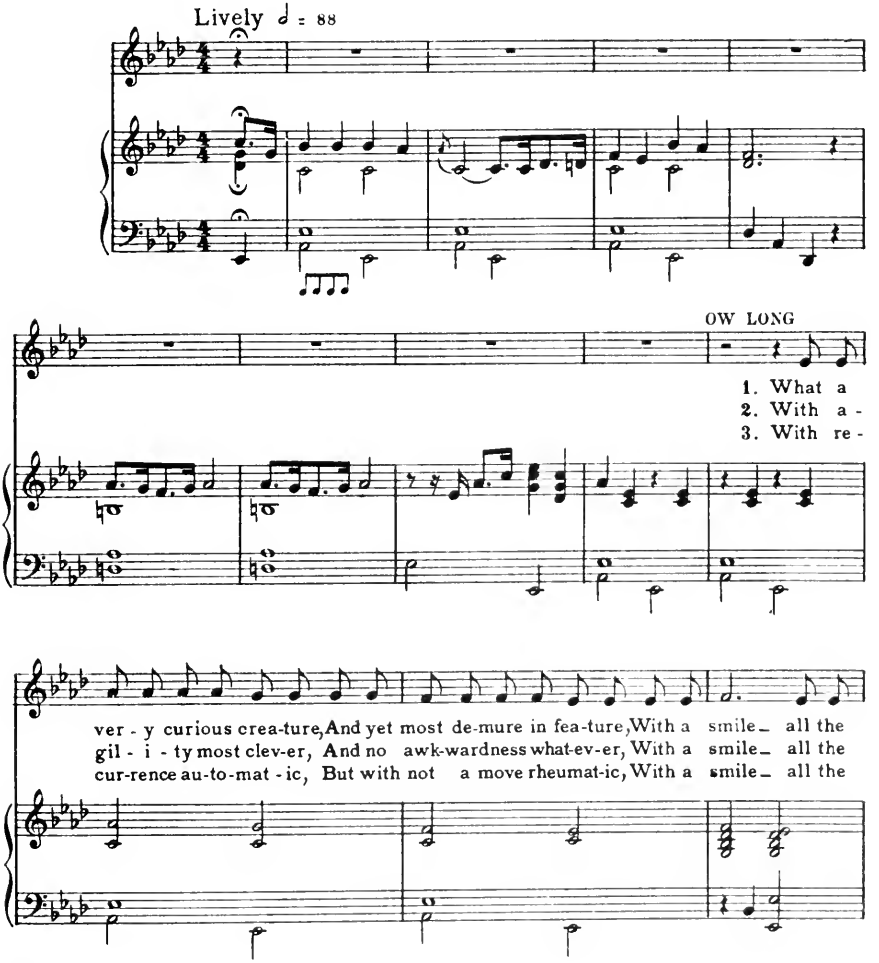
P. C. "You must have hurried back from the palace, but now that you are here,— please show us something else from your wonderful sleeve."

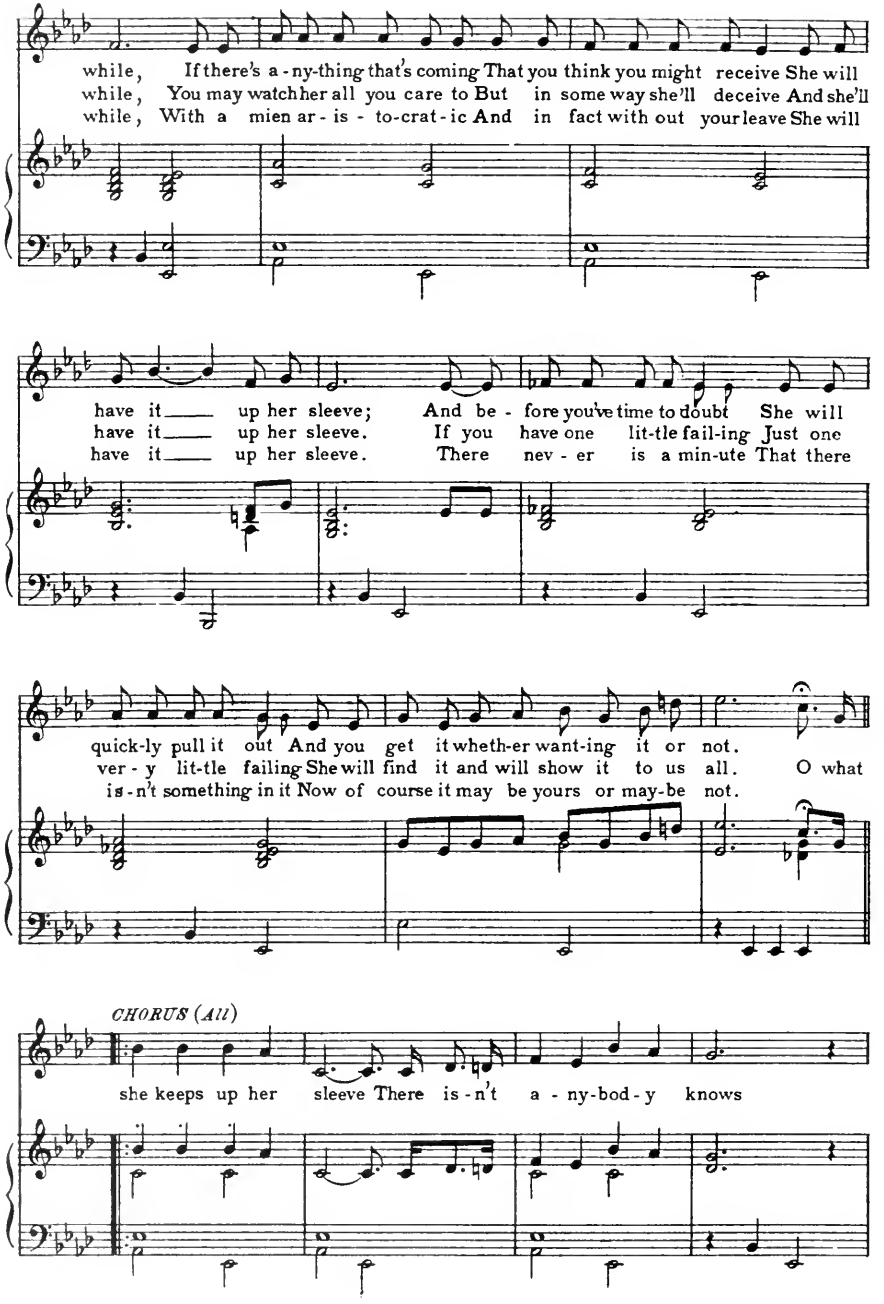
Ow Long: "Really she has more up her sleeve than anyone I know."

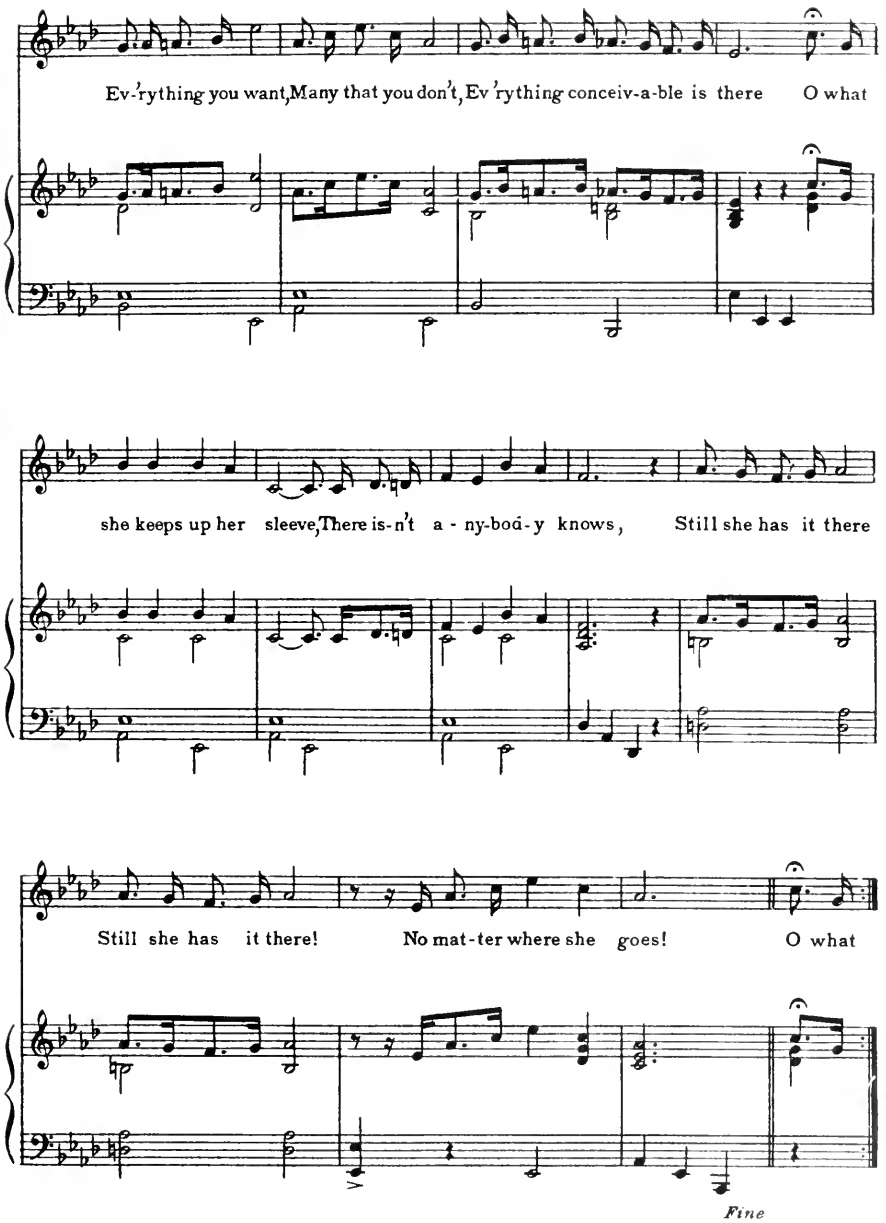
№ 12. Solo and Chorus

Ow Long

What she keeps up her sleeve



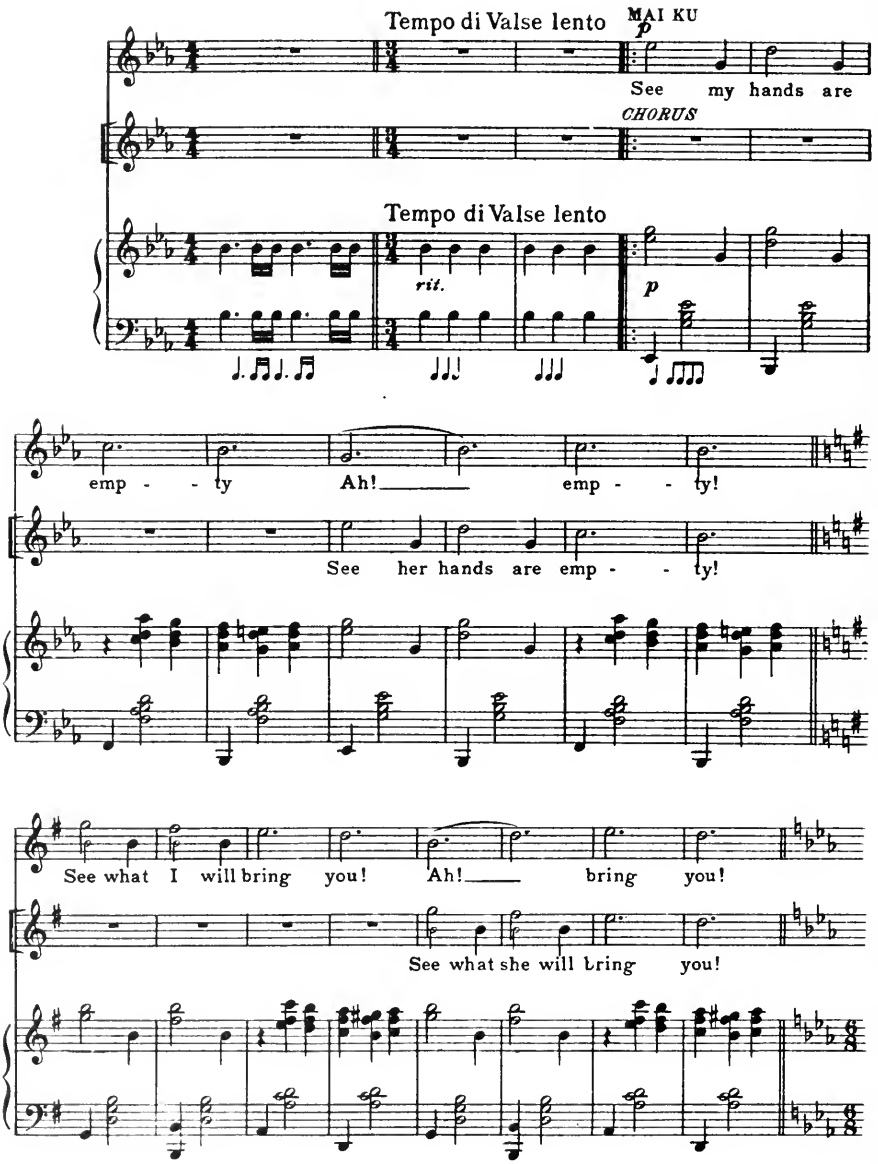

while, If there's a-ny-thing that's coming That you think you might receive She will
while, You may watch her all you care to But in some way she'll deceive And she'll
while, With a mien ar-is--to-crat-ic And in fact with out your leave She will
have it____ up her sleeve; And be-fore you've time to doubt She will
have it____ up her sleeve. If you have one lit-tle fail-ing Just one
have it____ up her sleeve. There nev-er is a min-ute That there
quick-ly pull it out And you get it wheth-er want-ing it or not.
ver-y lit-tle failing She will find it and will show it to us all. O what
is-n't something in it Now of course it may be yours or may-be not.
CHORUS (All)
she keeps up her sleeve There is-n't a-ny-bod-y knows

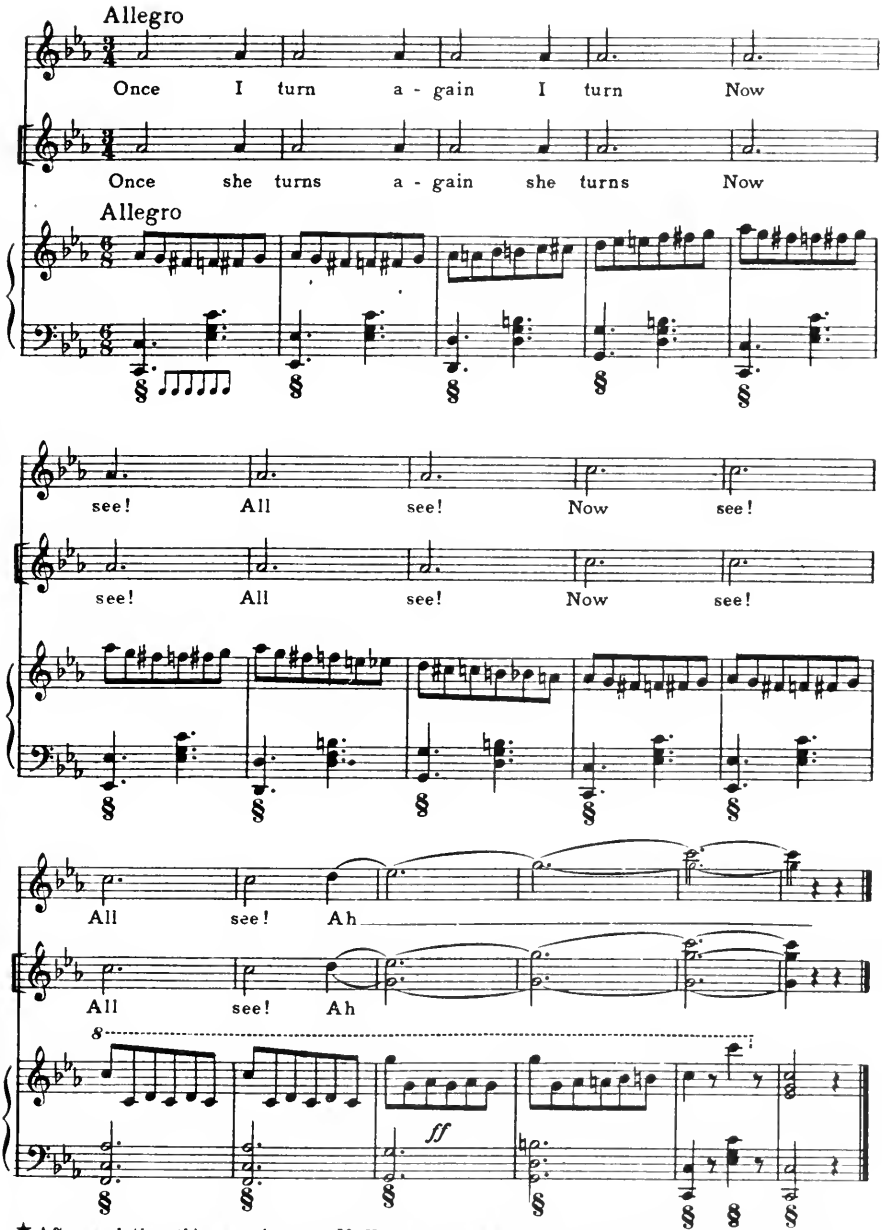

Ev-'rything you want, Many that you don't, Ev 'rything conceiv-a-ble is there O what
she keeps up her sleeve, There is-n't a - ny-bod-y knows, Still she has it there
Still she has it there! No mat-ter where she goes! O what
Fine

Nº 13. Solo and Chorus

Mai Ku

See! My hands are empty



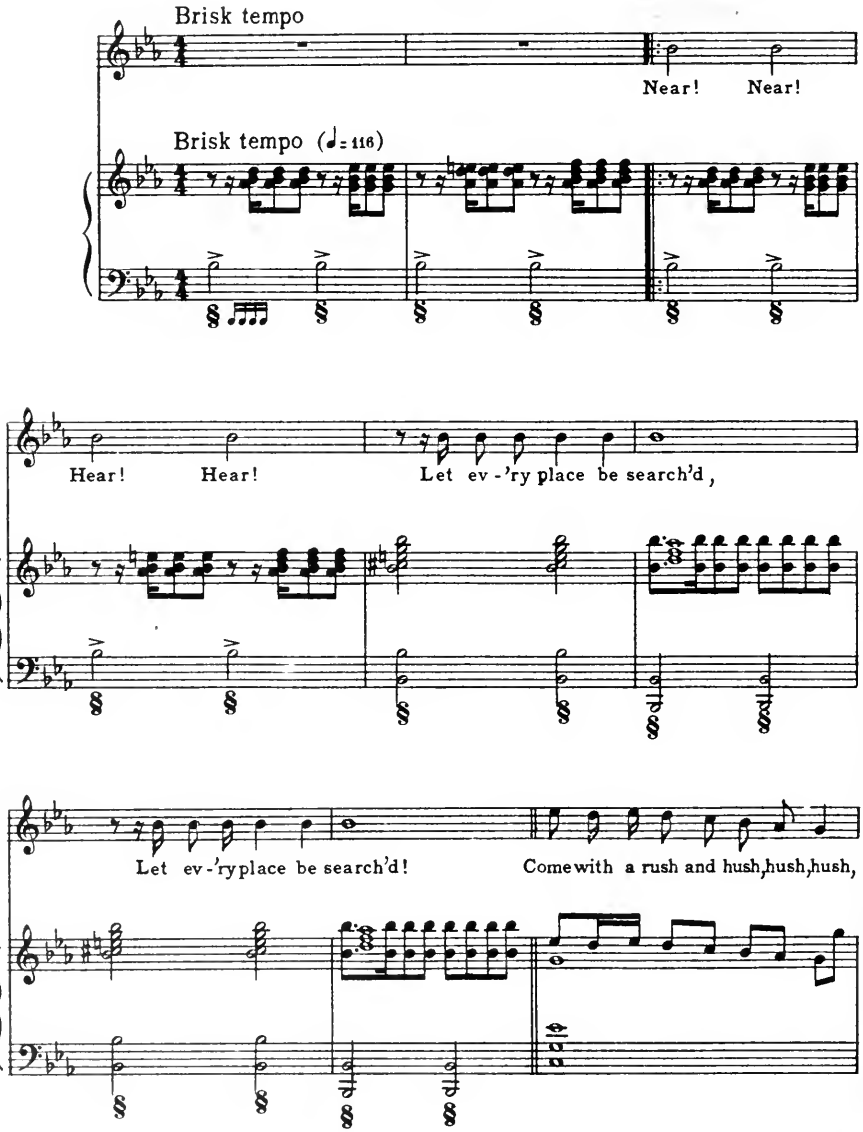


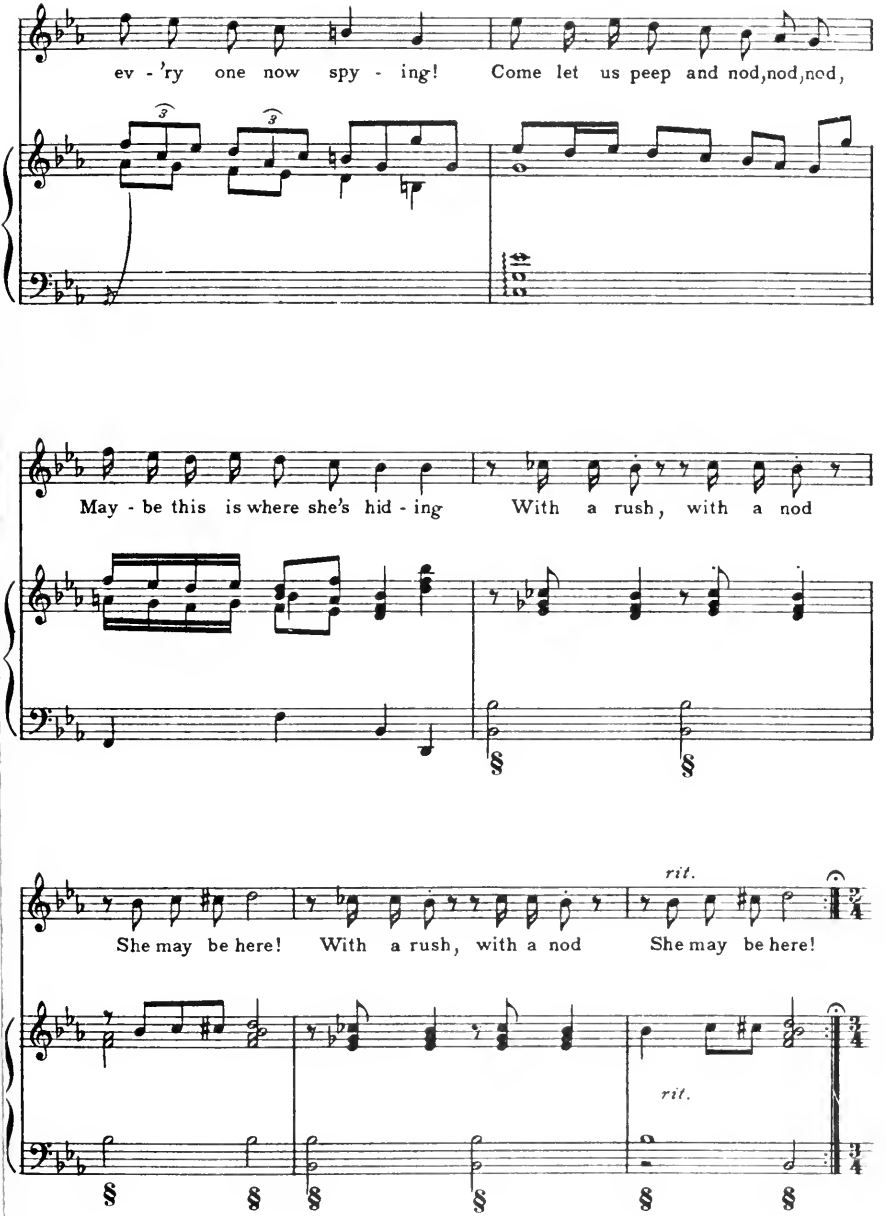
★ After each time this song is sung, M. K. may produce certain things from her sleeve, which she hands to O. L. who reads off the names for whom intended. Here local color may be added by some trifling absurdities presented to certain authorities. If this is not desired, M. K. may throw more confetti this time at the audience, or loose roses. but at the last, she produces the proclamation which O. L. reads.

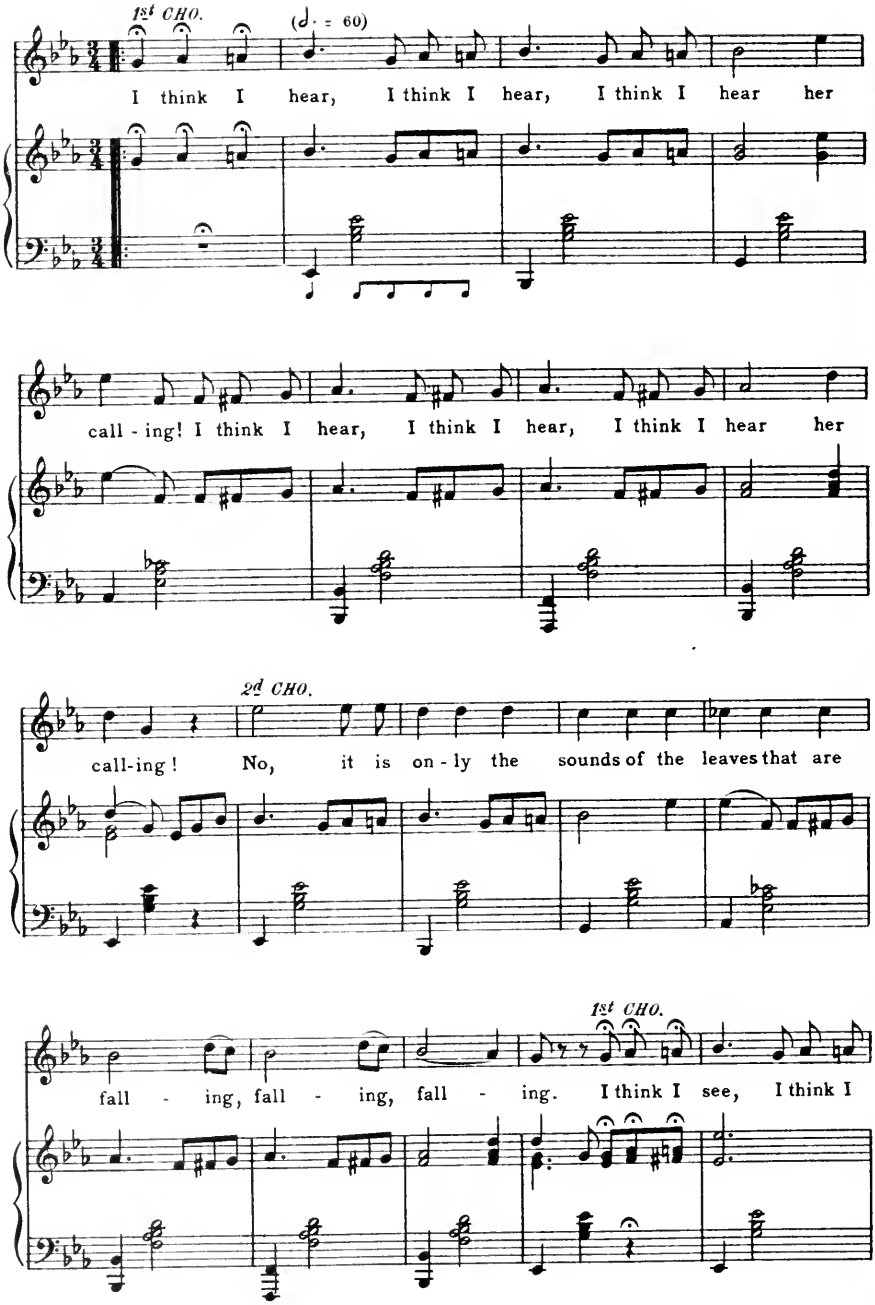
O. L. Proclamation of Emperor Chi: "From trustworthy sources I have today learned that the sister of Princess Chan is alive and near. Let every place be searched."
P. C. "Oh Joy. Oh Rapture! My sister alive and near!"

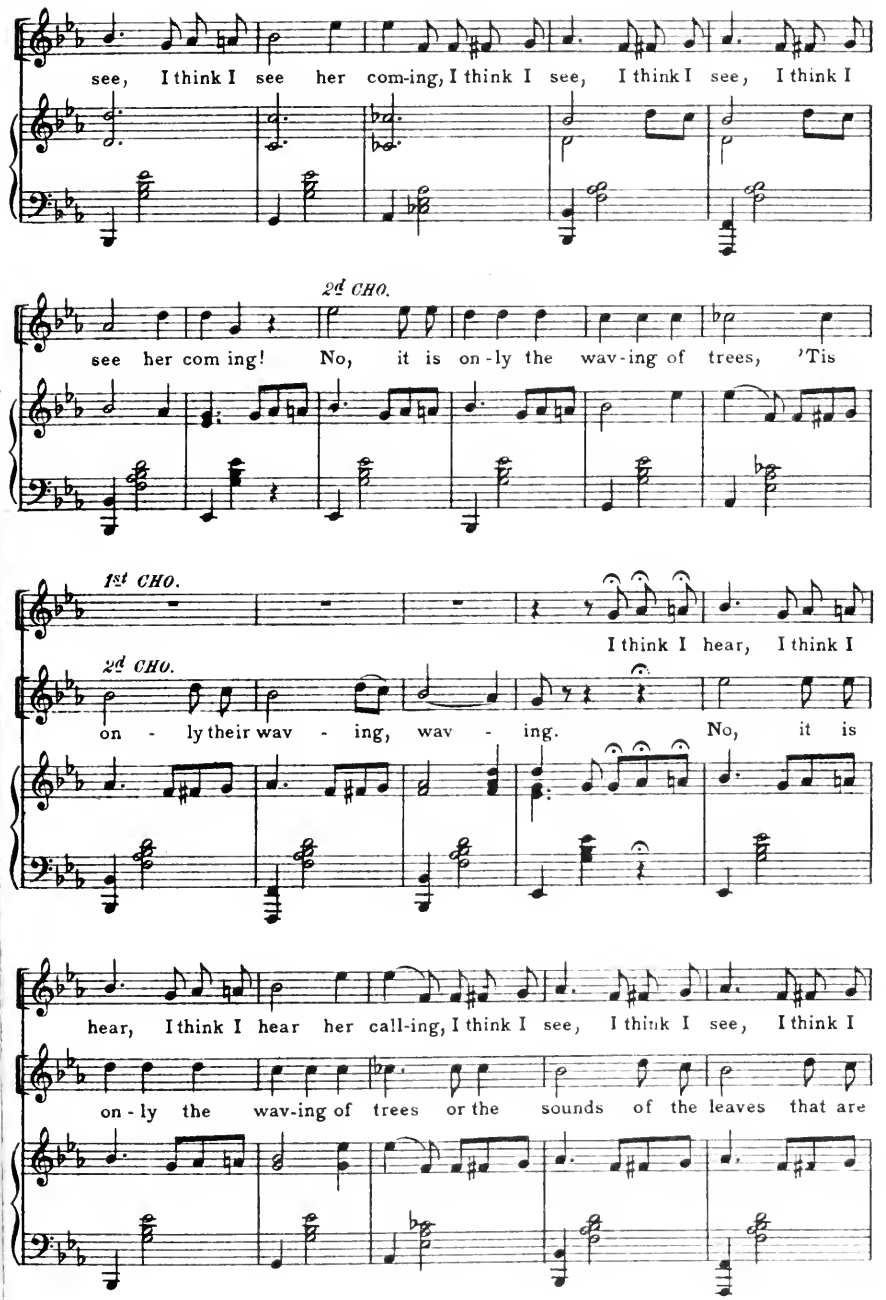
No. 14. Chorus

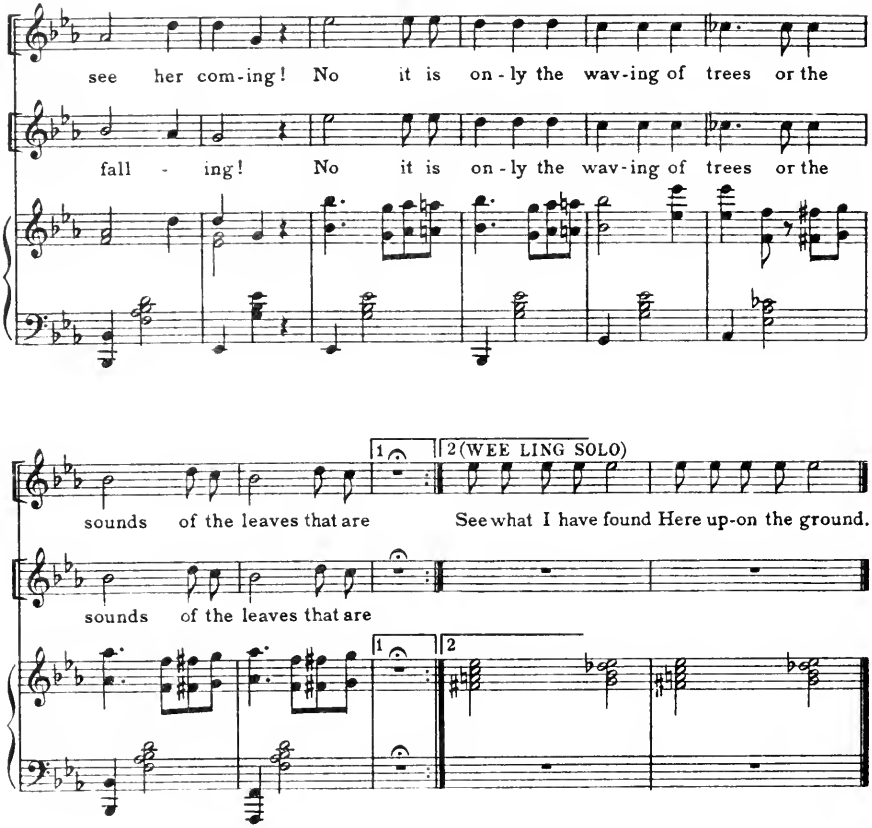
Near! Near!




ev - 'ry one now spy - ing! Come let us peep and nod,nod,nod,
May - be this is where she's hid - ing With a rush, with a nod
rit.
She may be here! With a rush, with a nod She may be here!
rit.


1st CHO.
(♩. = 60)
I think I hear, I think I hear, I think I hear her
call - ing! I think I hear, I think I hear, I think I hear her
2d CHO.
call-ing! No, it is on - ly the sounds of the leaves that are
1st CHO.
fall - ing, fall - ing, fall - ing. I think I see, I think I


see, I think I see her com-ing, I think I see, I think I see, I think I
2d CHO.
see her com ing! No, it is on-ly the wav-ing of trees, 'Tis
1st CHO.
I think I hear, I think I
2d CHO.
on - ly their wav - ing, wav - ing. No, it is
hear, I think I hear her call-ing, I think I see, I think I see, I think I
on - ly the wav-ing of trees or the sounds of the leaves that are



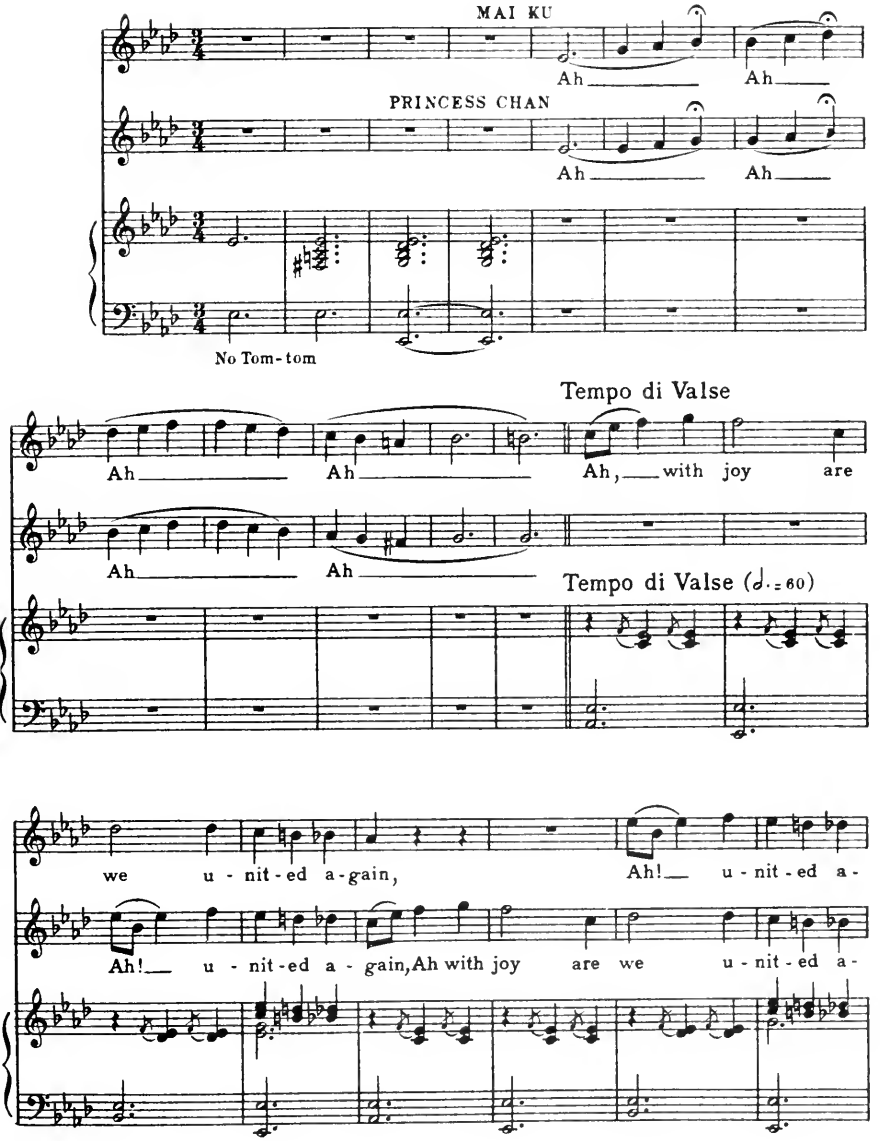
Mai Ku *(speaks)* "It is my locket – in it is one half of a coin and I remember being told when I was very young that my sister had the other half."

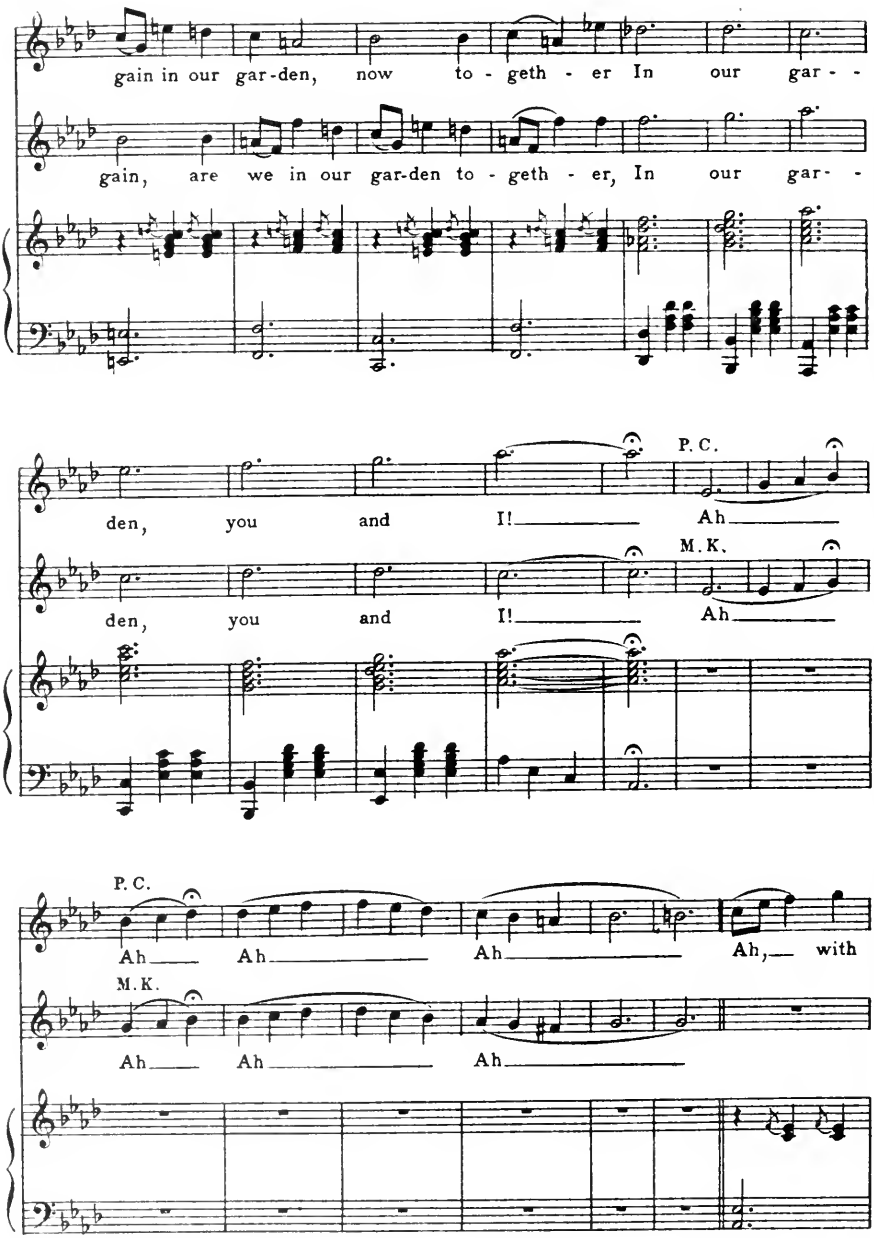
P. C. "Why how strange! I too, have a locket and half a coin. Let me see yours."

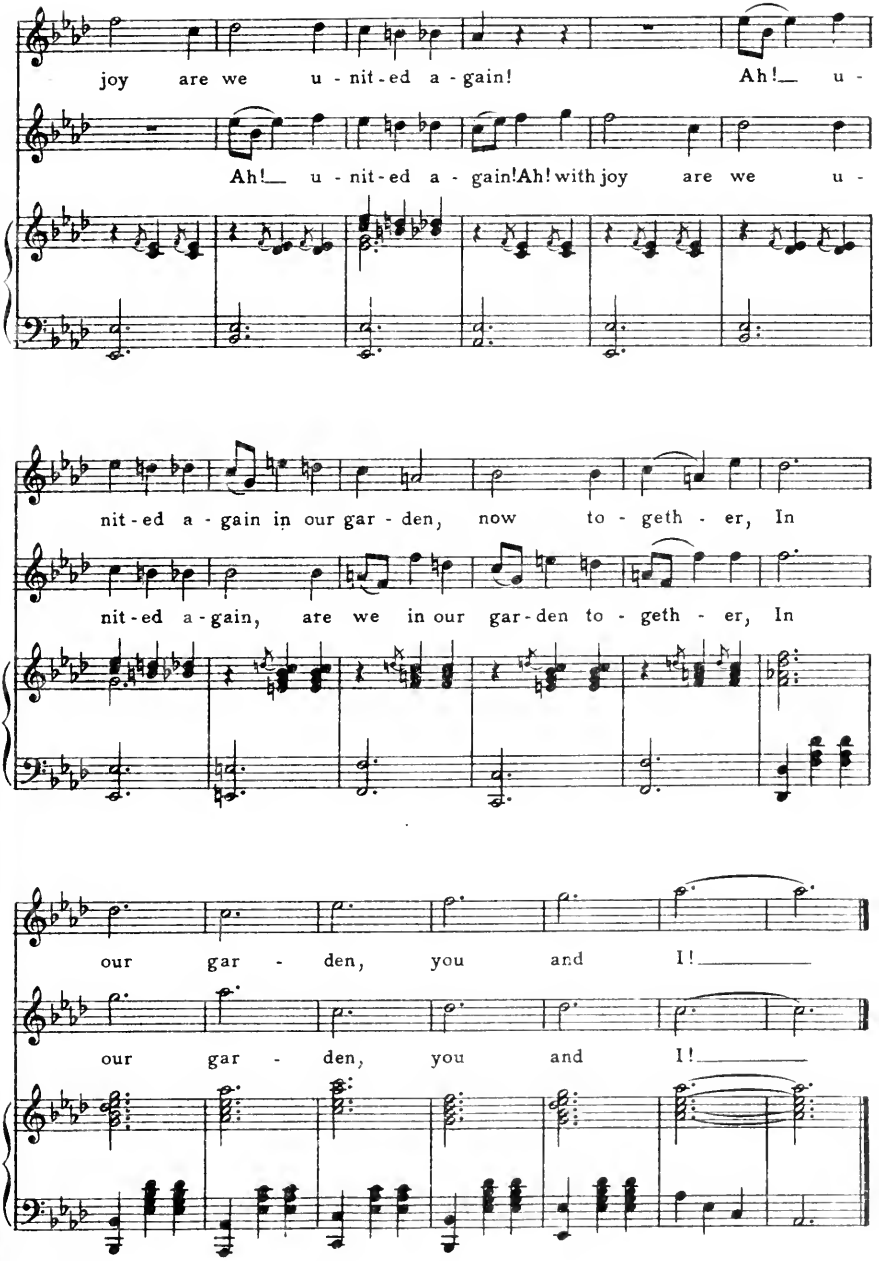
They compare lockets and embrace, crying out "My Sister!"

№ 15. Duet

Princess Chan and Mai Ku

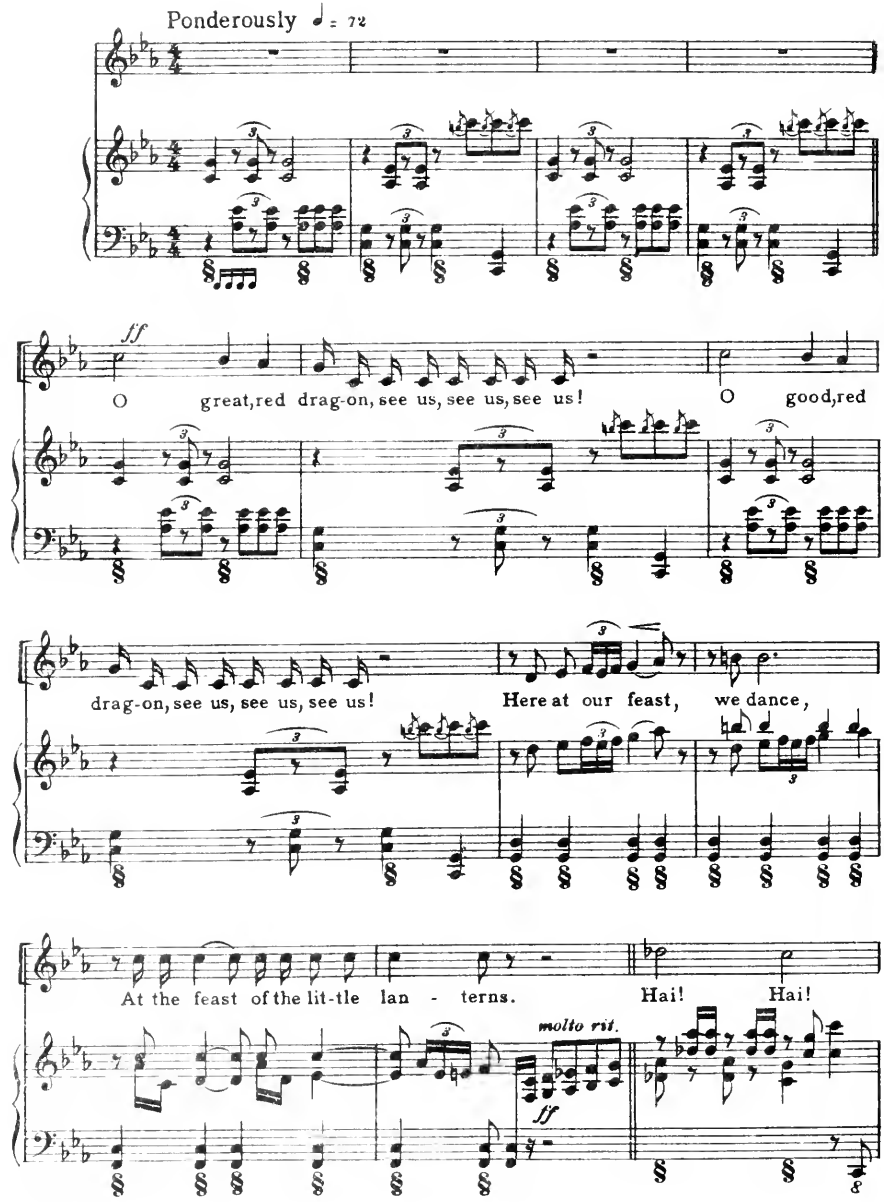


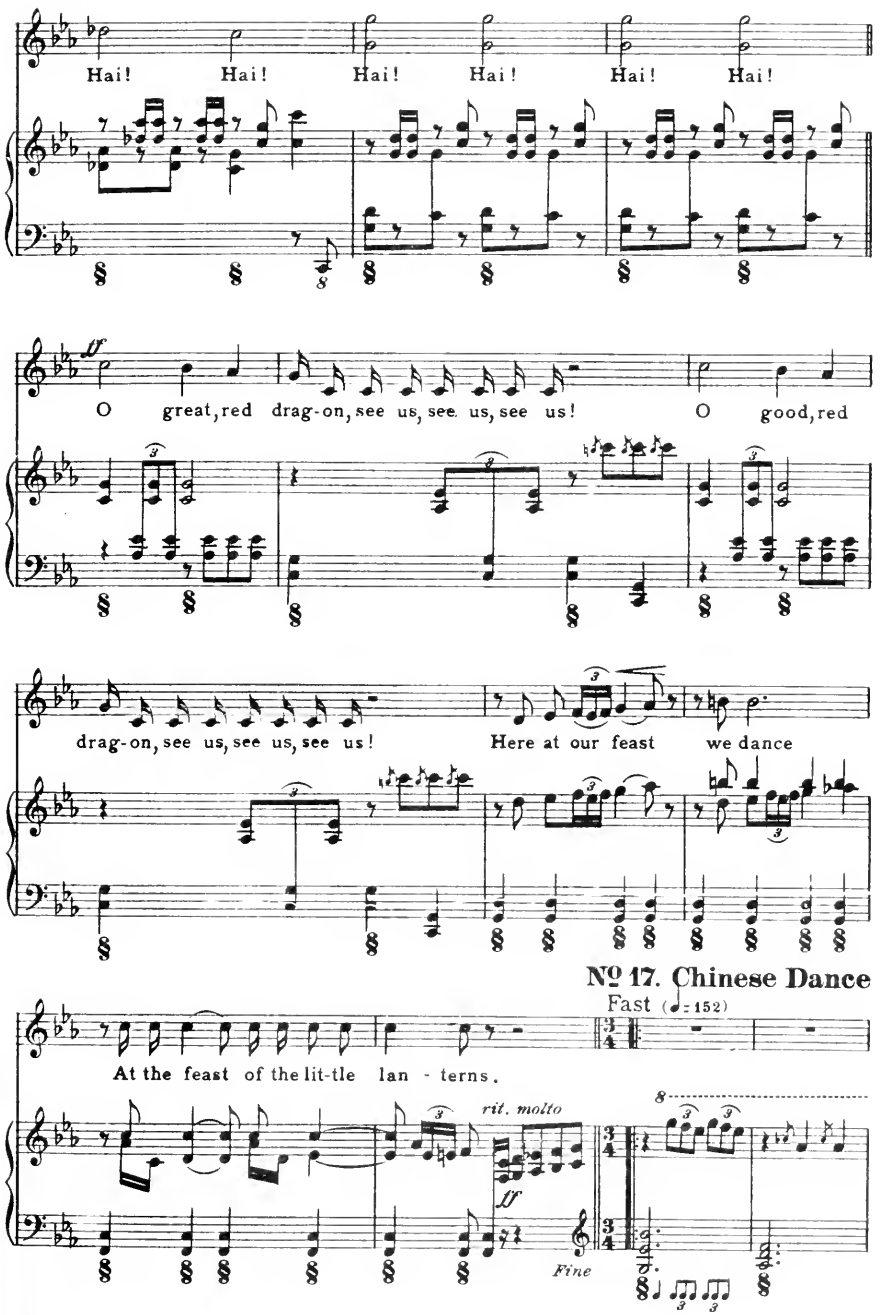

gain in our gar-den, now to - geth - er In our gar - -
gain, are we in our gar-den to - geth - er, In our gar - -
den, you and I! Ah
P. C.
den, you and I! Ah
M. K.
Ah Ah Ah Ah, with
P. C.
Ah Ah Ah
M. K.

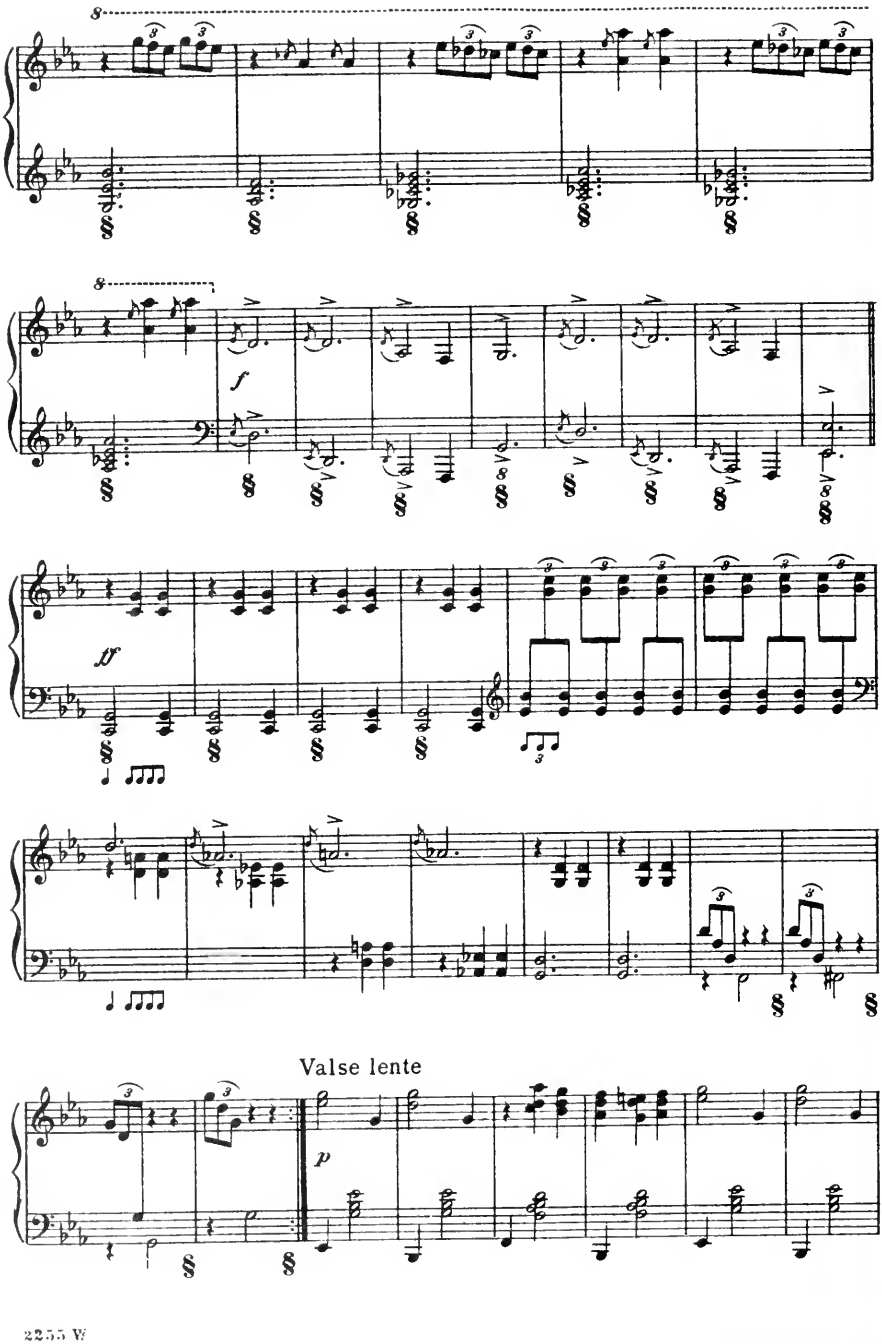

joy are we u - nit - ed a - gain! Ah! u -
Ah! u - nit - ed a - gain! Ah! with joy are we u -
nit - ed a - gain in our gar - den, now to - geth - er, In
nit - ed a - gain, are we in our gar - den to - geth - er, In
our gar - den, you and I!
our gar - den, you and I!

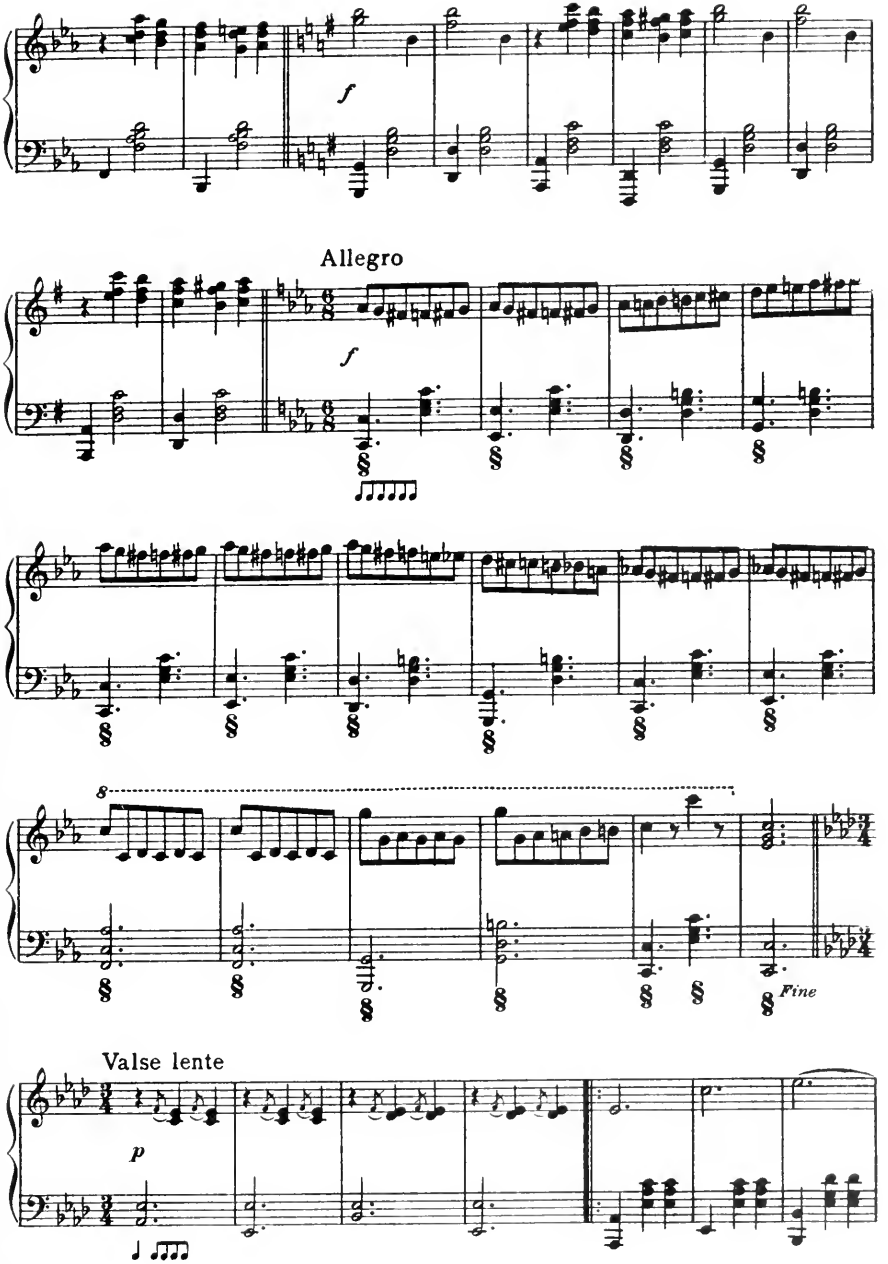
№ 16. Chorus

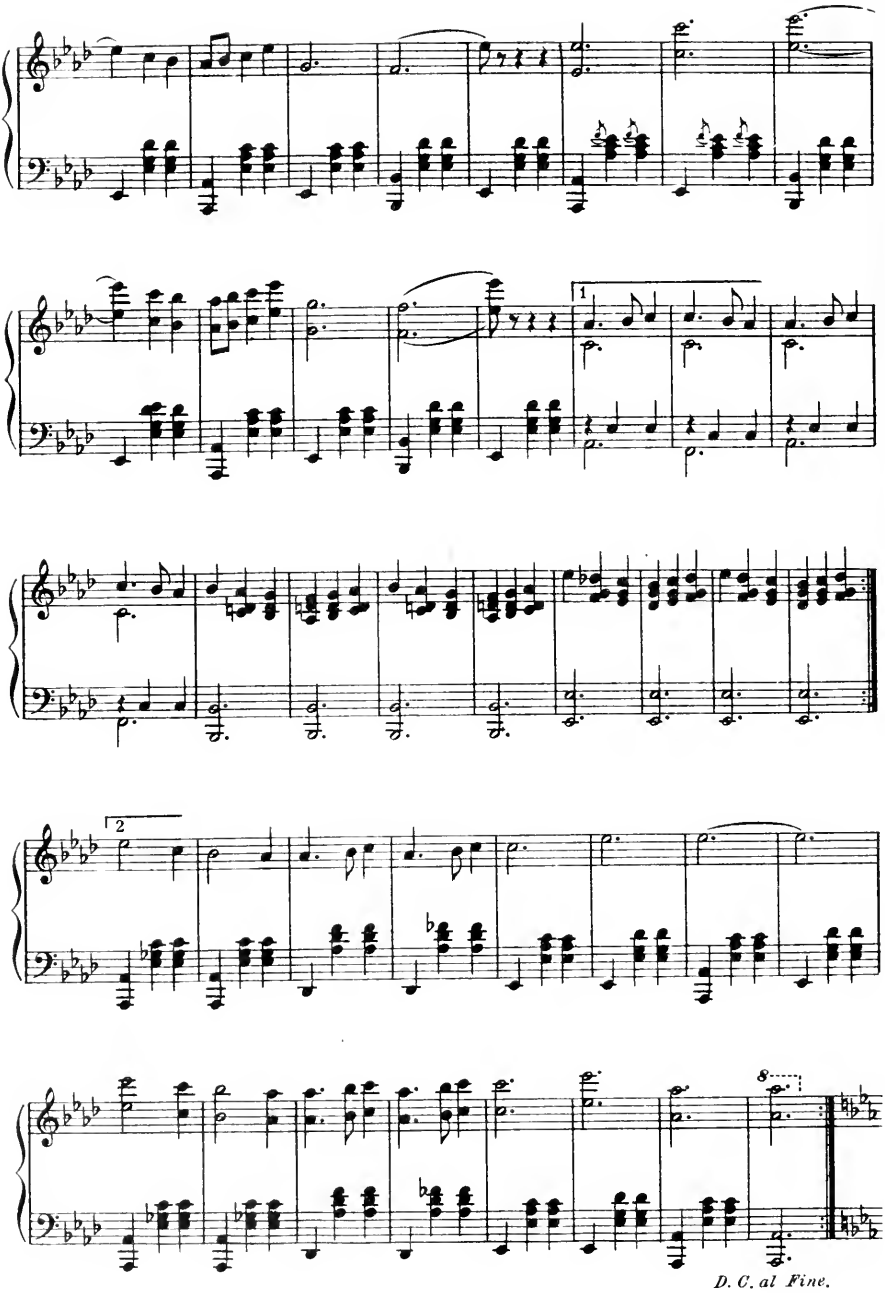
O Great Red Dragon!




Hai! Hai! Hai! Hai! Hai! Hai!
O great, red drag-on, see us, see us, see us! O good, red
drag-on, see us, see us, see us! Here at our feast we dance
No 17. Chinese Dance
Fast (♩= 152)
At the feast of the lit-tle lan - terns.
rit. molto
Fine


f
ff
Valse lente
p

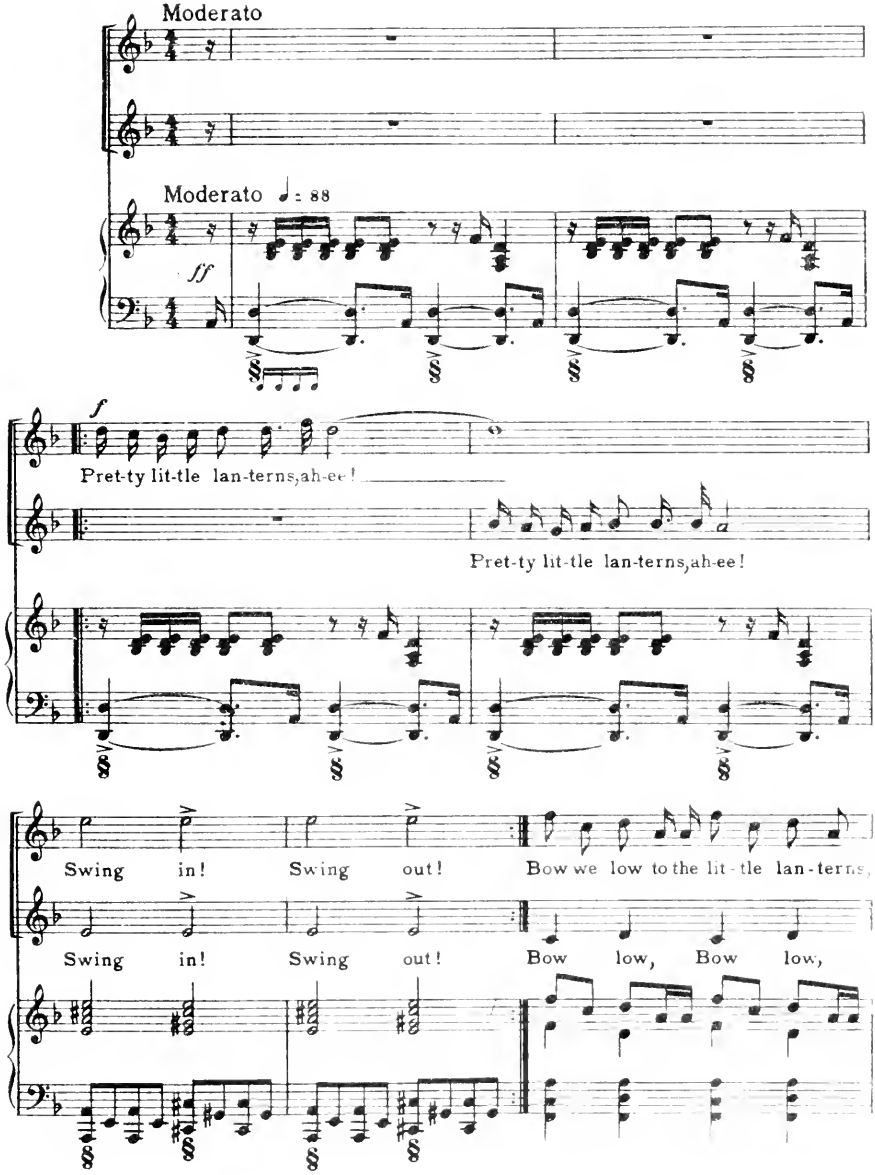

f
Allegro
f
8
Fine
Valse lente
p

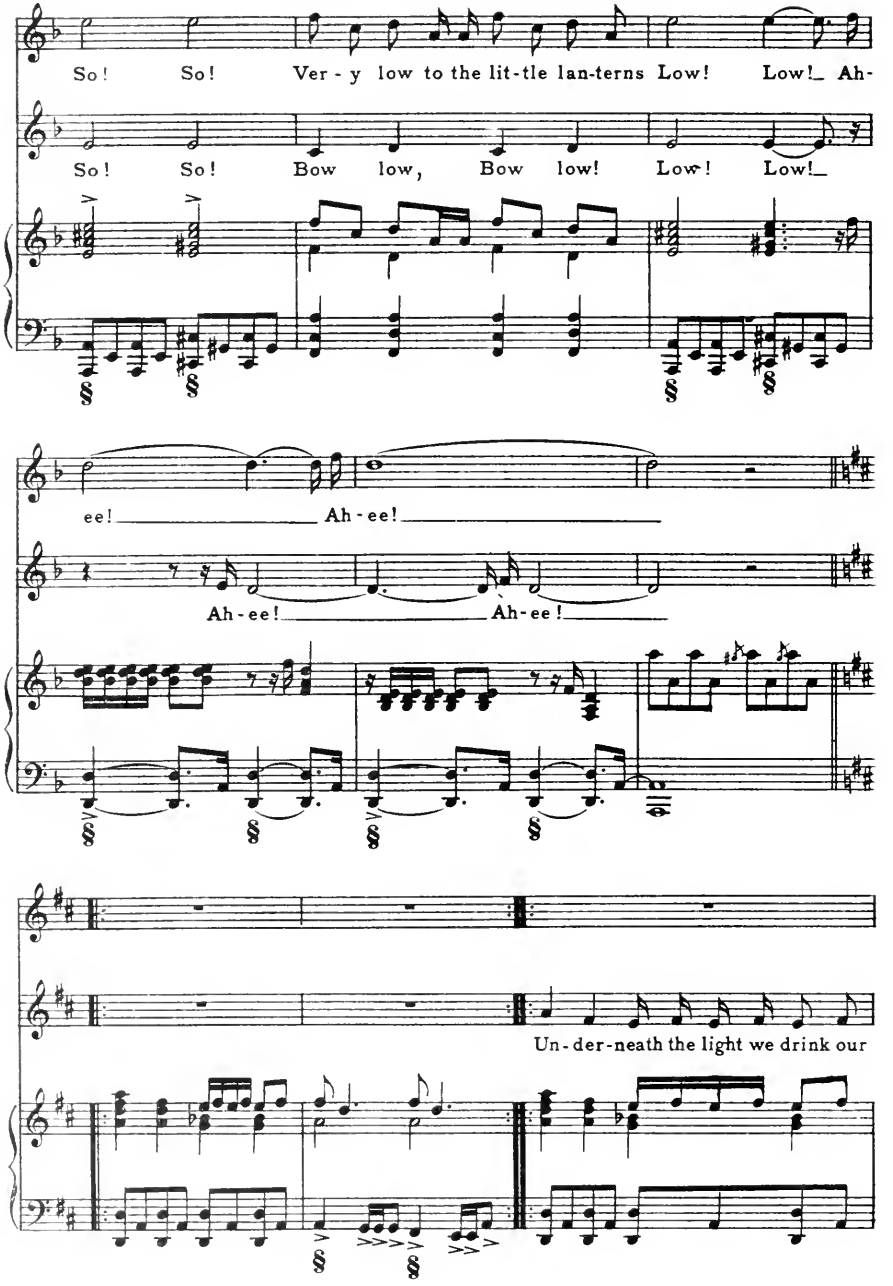

1
2
8
D. C. al Fine.

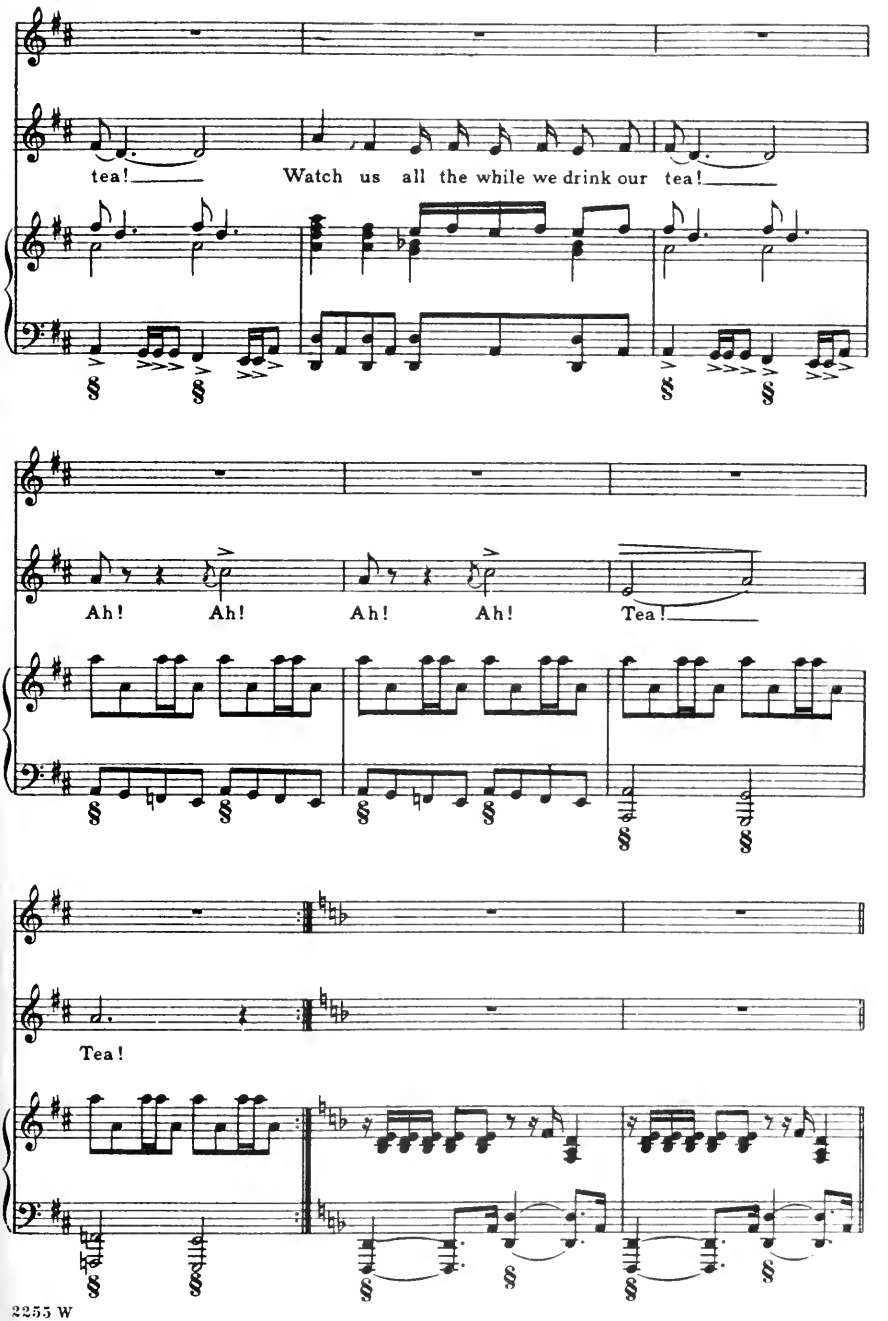
№ 18. Chorus

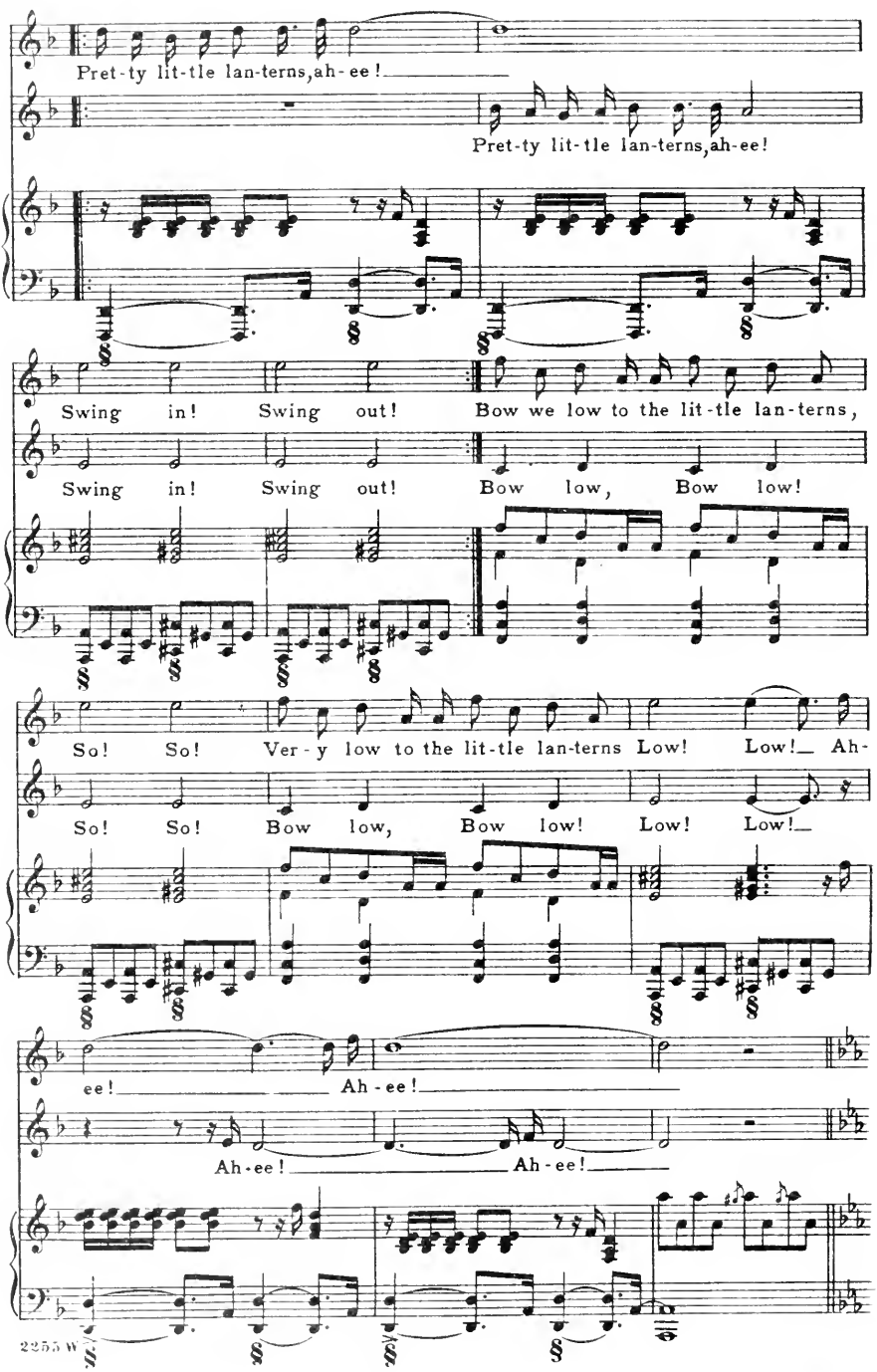
Finale

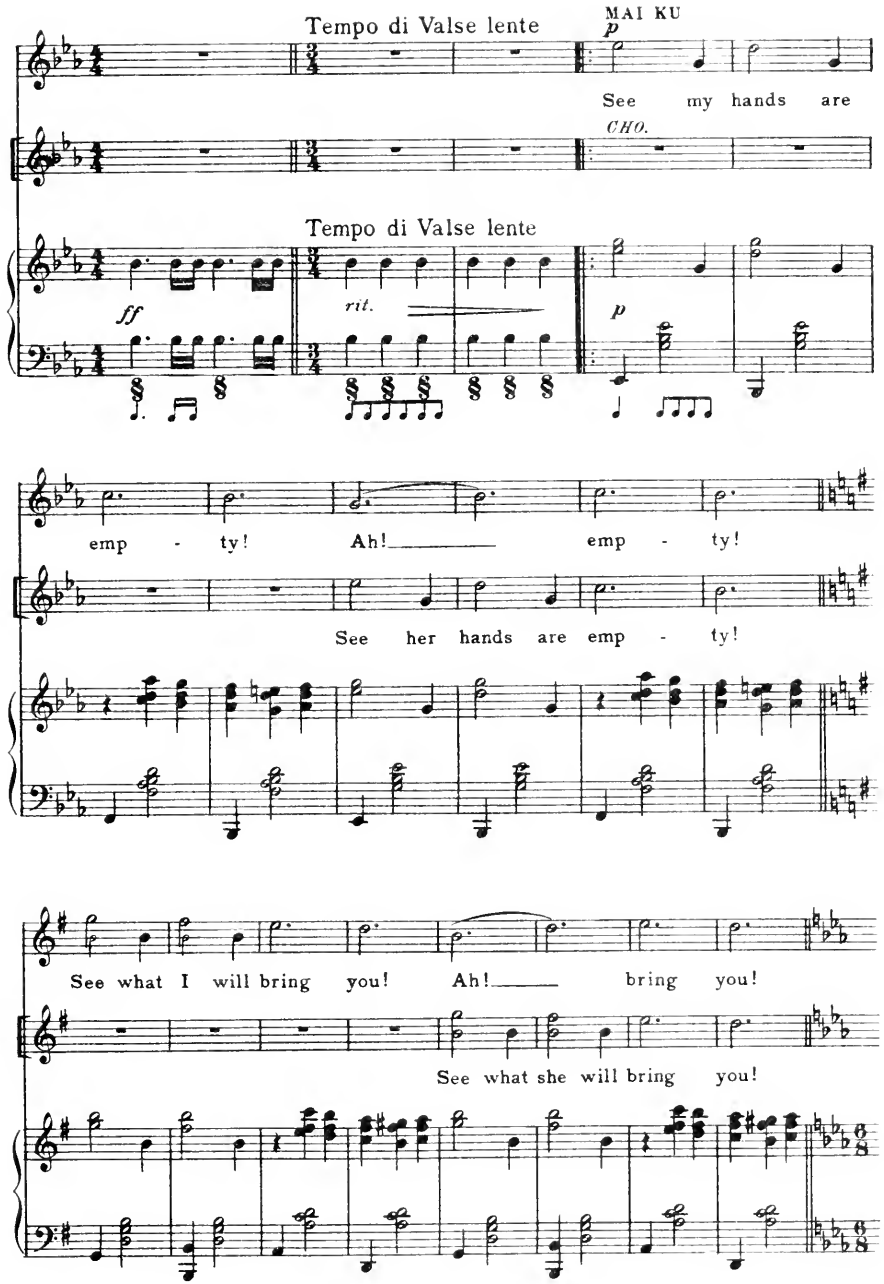
Pretty Little Lanterns

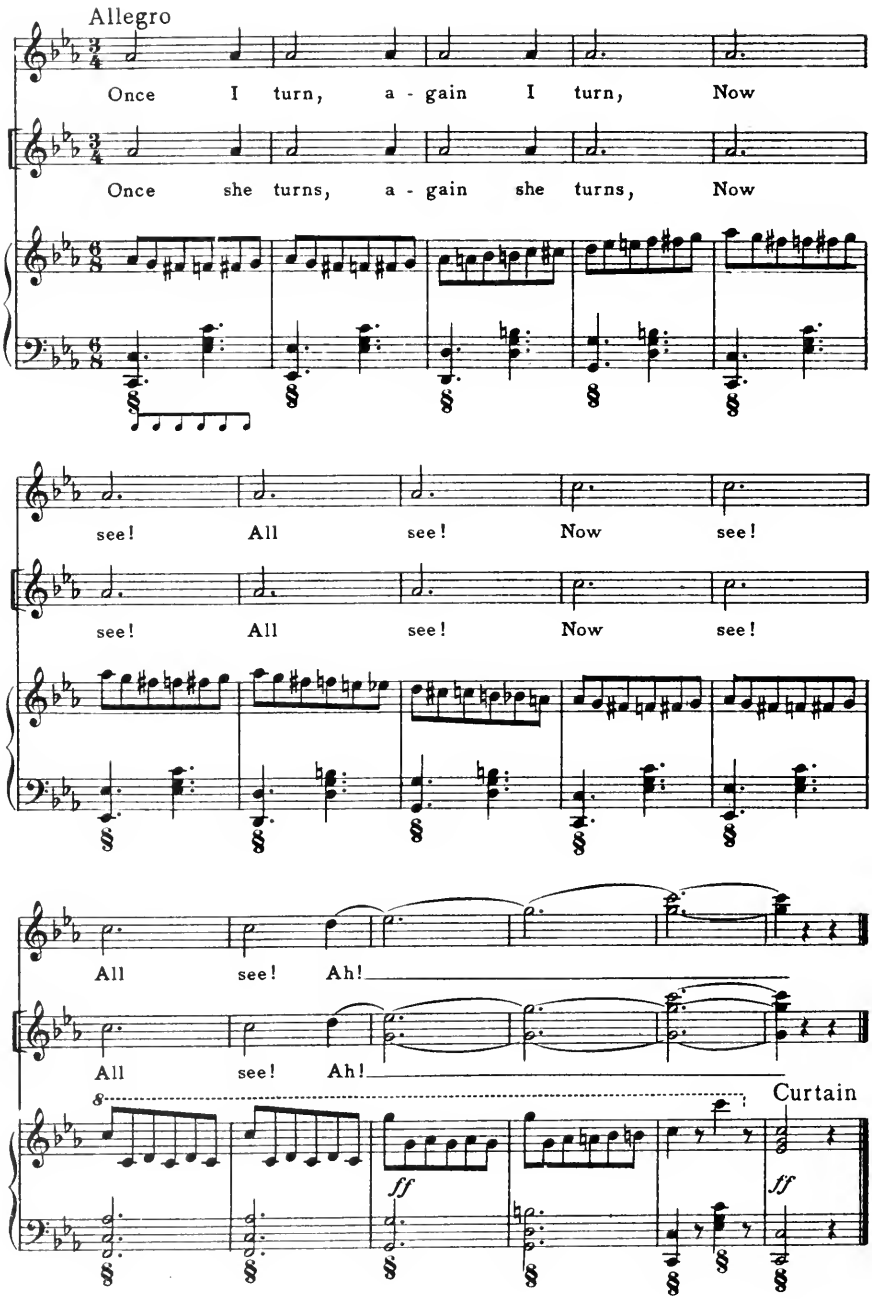



So! So! Ver - y low to the lit-tle lan-terns Low! Low!_ Ah-
So! So! Bow low, Bow low! Low! Low!_
ee!_____ Ah-ee!_____
Ah-ee!_____ Ah-ee!_____
Un-der-neath the light we drink our

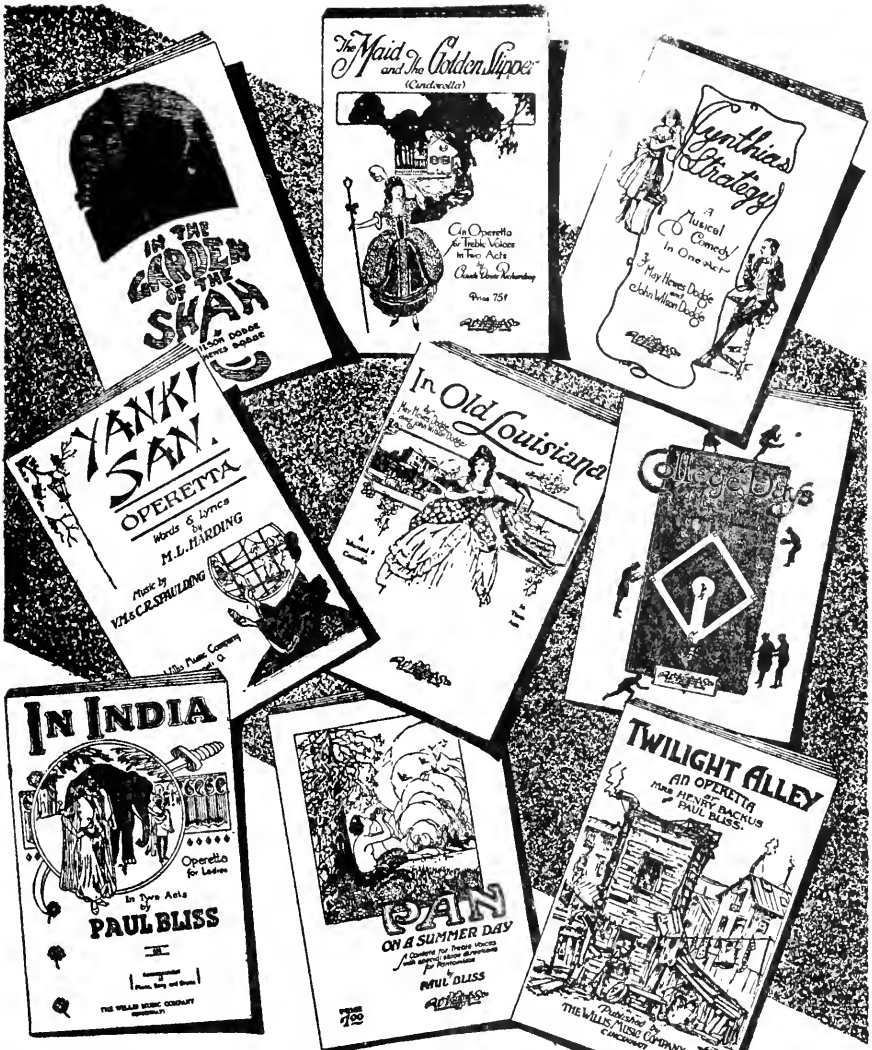

tea!
Watch us all the while we drink our tea!
Ah! Ah! Ah! Ah! Tea!
Tea!


Pret-ty lit-tle lan-terns, ah-ee!
Pret-ty lit-tle lan-terns, ah-ee!
Swing in! Swing out! Bow we low to the lit-tle lan-terns,
Swing in! Swing out! Bow low, Bow low!
So! So! Ver-y low to the lit-tle lan-terns Low! Low! Ah-
So! So! Bow low, Bow low! Low! Low!
ee! Ah-ee!
Ah-ee! Ah-ee!


Tempo di Valse lente
MAI KU
p
See my hands are
CHO.
Tempo di Valse lente
ff
rit.
p
emp - ty! Ah! emp - ty!
See her hands are emp - ty!
See what I will bring you! Ah! bring you!
See what she will bring you!


Allegro
Once I turn, a - gain I turn, Now
Once she turns, a - gain she turns, Now
see! All see! Now see!
see! All see! Now see!
All see! Ah!
All see! Ah!
Curtain
ff
ff

THE END



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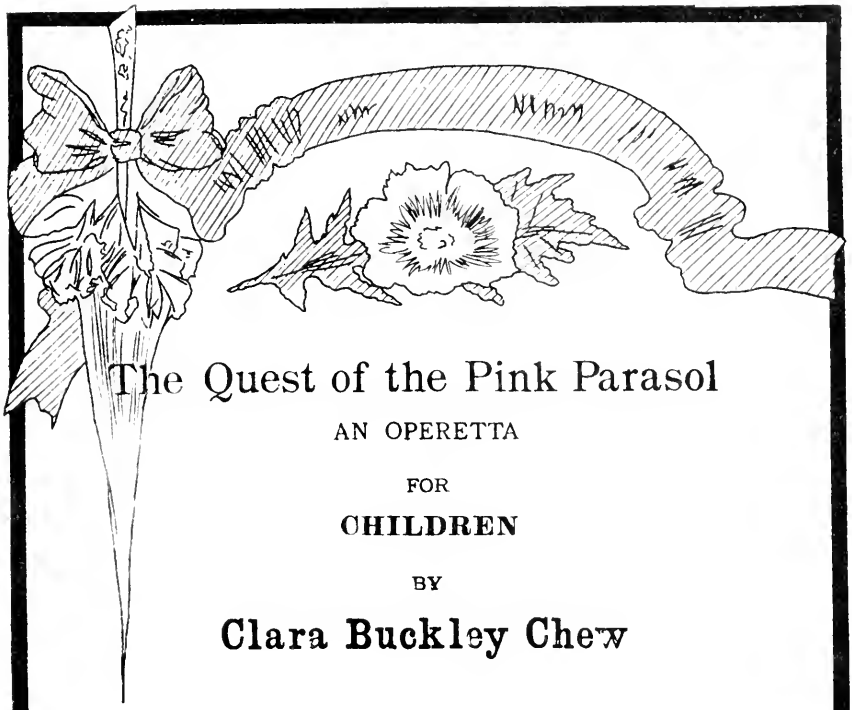

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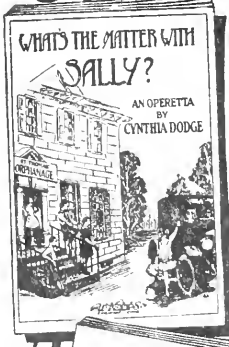

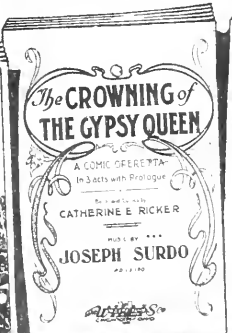

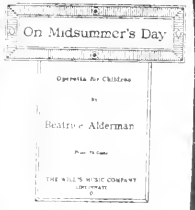

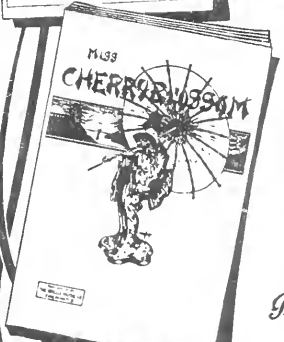

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